

HENRIETTA.

By the AUTHOR of K
THE FEMALE QUIXOTE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

V O L. I.



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HENRIETTA

THE FEMALE GENIUS



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HEN.

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HENRIETTA.

BOOK THE FIRST.

CHAP. I.

Which introduces our Heroine to the Acquaintance of the Reader in no very advantageous Situation.

ABOUT the middle of July, 17 , when the Windsor stage-coach with the accustomed number of passengers was proceeding on its way to London, a young woman genteely dressed, with a small parcel tied up in her handkerchief, hastily bolted from the shelter of a large tree near the road ; and, calling to the coachman to stop for a moment, asked him, if he could let her have a place ? The man, although he well knew his vehicle was already sufficiently crowded, yet being desirous of appropriating this supernumerary fare to himself, replied, that he did not doubt but he could find room for her ; and, jumping off his box, begged the company to sit close, and give the young woman a place.

2 H E N R I E T T A.

“What do you mean?” said a jolly fat woman, with a face as red as scarlet, “Have you not got your usual number of passengers? Do you think we will be stifled with heat to put money into your pocket?” “There is room enough for such a slender young body as this,” said the coachman, “if you would but sit closer.”

“Sit closer!” repeated the dame, and, spreading her cloaths, “Don’t you see we are crowded to death: how dare you pretend to impose another passenger upon us, when your coach is already full?”

“Well,” said a tall lean woman, who sat next her, “This is the first time I ever travelled in a stage-coach, and truly I am sick of it already. There is no bearing the insults one is exposed to in these carriages. Prithee, young woman,” pursued she, with an air of great contempt, “Go about your business, you see there is no room for you— And do you, fellow, get on your box, and drive on.”

“Fellow me! no fellows,” said the coachman, in a surly tone, “I won’t drive till I please. Who are you, pray, that takes so much upon you to order me?”

“Who

“ Who am I, you saucy Jack-a-napes, said the lady, a person that——but I shall not demean myself so much as to tell you who I am : it is my misfortune to be stuffed up in a stage-coach at present--- what I have never been used to, I assure you.”

“ Good lack-a-day !” said the fat gentlewoman, with a sneer, “ A great misfortune truly--- I would have you to know, madam, your betters ride in stage-coaches. Here’s a coil indeed with such would-be gentry.”

“ Good woman,” said the other, with an affected calmness, “ Pray don’t direct your impertinent discourse to me, I have nothing to say to you.”

“ No more a good woman than yourself,” said the plump lady, with a face doubly inflamed with rage ; “ I scorn your words.”

“ Very likely ;” said a grave man, who sat on the opposite side, “ but I wish it was possible to make room for the young gentlewoman”--- “ Ah ! God bless your honour,” said the coachman, I thought you could not find in your heart to let such a pretty young woman as this walk.”

“ Pretty !” exclaimed the haughty lady--- “ You are a fine judge of beauty indeed--- but I will not submit to be crouded, fellow : so

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“ you and your pretty passenger may ride on the
“ coach-box, if you please.”

“ Nay, since you come to that,” says the
fat gentlewoman, “ I am resolved you shall
“ not have your own way--- The young lady
“ may be as good as you ; and she shall not
“ be obliged to ride on the coach-box--- So
“ open the door, coachman,” said she, shoving
her antagonist at the same time with all her
force---“ Here is room enough.”

A young gentlewoman in a riding-habit, who
sat on the same side, but next the window, de-
clared that she was willing to give part of her
seat to the stranger ; and begged the haughty
lady to yield. “ Poh,” said the rosy matron,
“ don’t stand begging and praying her ; since
“ you are on my side, we will be too hard for
“ her, I warrant you.” Saying this, she put
one of her huge arms round the young woman’s
waist ; and thus reinforced, shoved her neigh-
bour so forcibly against the other window,
that she cried out with pain and vexation.

The young lady without, who had been the
occasion of this contest, and who had hitherto
stood silent, with her hat over her eyes, alarmed
by the screams of her foe, raised her head ; and
in a tone of voice so sweet, as immediately
fixed the attention of the whole company, in-
treated

treated them not to quarrel upon her account : it was indeed, she said, of great consequence to her to be admitted, but she would not continue to desire it, since her request had produced so much uneasiness among them.

The passengers who occupied the other side of the coach were two men and a woman big with child ; which circumstance had made it impossible for the men to offer her a seat with them, for fear of incommoding the pregnant woman. But the youngest of the men having now got a glimpse of the stranger's face, declared that the ladies might make themselves easy, for he would resign his seat ; adding, that he was extremely glad he had an opportunity of obliging such a handsome lady. He then jumped out of the coach, and taking the stranger's hand to help her in, stared confidently under her hat, which put her into a little confusion : however she thanked him very politely, and accepted his offer ; but not without expressing some concern for the manner in which he would dispose of himself.

“ Oh ! madam,” said the coachman, “ the gentleman may sit upon the box with me, and he will have the pleasure of viewing the beautiful prospects all the way we go.” — “ I shall see none so beautiful,” said the young fellow,

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“ as what they who remain in the coach will
“ behold.”

The fair stranger now blushed more than before, and being willing to avoid any farther speeches of this nature, she hastily got into the coach, thanked the young man a second time, who having seen her seated, placed himself by the coachman on the box, and they proceeded on their journey.

C H A P. II.

The commencement of a violent friendship between two young ladies, which has the usual consequences, a communication of secrets, by which the reader is let into part of Henrietta's story.

A Profound silence now prevailed among the company in the coach; the eyes of all were fastened upon the fair stranger, who appeared wholly insensible of the scrutinizing looks of her fellow-travellers. Something within herself seemed to engross all her thoughts, and although by her eyes being constantly turned towards the windows of the coach, it might be imagined the passing objects drew her attention, yet their fixed looks too plainly indicated that they were beheld without observation. Her
person,

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person, though full of charms, and the easy gracefulness of her air, impressed less respect for her on the minds of the women, than the elegance of her morning-dress, which they were now at leisure to consider. Her gown was a white sprig'd muslin, extremely fine, through which shone a rich blue Mantua silk petticoat : her cap, handkerchief, and ruffles were trimmed with fine Brussels lace : her apron had a broad border round it of Dresden work ; and a white lutestring hat shaded her charming face, which she was solicitous to conceal from view.

The melancholy with which she seemed oppressed, conciliated to her the good will of her female fellow-travellers, though from very different sentiments. The haughty lady, who had refused to let her have a place in the coach, found her envy and ill-nature insensibly subside, by the consideration that this stranger was probably more unhappy than herself.

The lusty matron, pleased that by insisting upon receiving her, she had conferred an obligation on one who appeared to be of a rank above her own, enjoyed her present superiority, and pitied her from the overflowings of gratified pride.

The young lady in the riding-habit, whose vanity had been a little mortified at seeing her-

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self associated in a journey with persons whom she conceived to be very unfit company for her, thought herself very happy in the acquisition of so genteel a fellow-traveller; and as she had not deign'd to open her mouth before, from an opinion of the meanness of her company, she now made herself amends for her silence, by addressing a profusion of civil speeches to the fair stranger, who replied to every thing she said with extreme politeness, but with an air that showed her heart was not at ease.

The passengers being set down at different places, miss Courteney, for that was the name of our fair adventurer, remained alone with the young lady in the coach. This circumstance seemed to rouse her from a deep revery, in which she had been wholly absorbed during the last half hour; and looking earnestly at her companion, "Ah! madam, said she," in a most affecting accent, "and when am I to lose you?" "I shall leave you in a few minutes," said the lady; "for I am going no farther than Ham-
"mer-smith." "Lord bless me!" said miss Courteney, lifting up her fine eyes swimming in tears, "What shall I do? what will become of
"me?"

This exclamation gave great surprize to the other lady, who from several circumstances had

con-

conceived there was some mystery in her case. "You seem uneasy," said she to miss Courteney, "pray let me know if it be in my power to serve you."

This kind request had such an effect on the tender heart of miss Courteney, that she burst into tears, and for a few moments was unable to answer; when the lady pressing her to speak freely, "I am an unhappy creature, madam, said she, sighing; "and am flying from the only "person in the world upon whom I have any dependence. I will make no scruple to trust you "with my secret. Did you ever hear of lady "Meadows," pursued she, "the widow of Sir "John Meadows?"

"I know a lady who is acquainted with her," said the other, "she is a woman of fashion and "fortune."

"Lady Meadows is my relation," resumed miss Courteney; "she took me, a poor helpless "orphan, under her protection, and during some "time treated me with the tenderness of a mother. Within these few weeks I have unhappily lost her favour, not by any fault of mine, "I assure you, for I have always loved and revered her. Nothing should have obliged "me to take this step, which has no doubt an

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“ appearance of ingratitude, but the fear of being
 “ forced to marry a man I hate.”

“ O heavens ! my dear creature,” exclaimed
 the lady, “ What do you tell me ! were you
 “ upon the point of being forced to a detested
 “ match ?” “ I was, madam,” replied miss Cour-
 teney ; “ and to this hard lot was I doomed by
 “ her to whom I owe all my past happiness,
 “ and from whom I expected all the future.”

“ You have obliged me excessively by this
 “ unreserved confidence,” interrupted the lady ;
 “ and you shall find me not unworthy of it.
 “ From this moment I swear to you an invio-
 “ lable attachment. Sure there is nothing so
 “ transporting as friendship and mutual confi-
 “ dence. You won my heart the moment I
 “ saw you. I have formed a hundred violent
 “ friendships, but one accident or other al-
 “ ways dissolved them in a short time. There
 “ are very few persons that are capable of a
 “ violent friendship ; at least I never could find
 “ one that answered my ideas of that sort of en-
 “ gagement. Have not you been often disap-
 “ pointed ? tell me, my dear : I dare say you
 “ have. Your sentiments, I believe, are as
 “ delicate as mine upon this head. I am
 “ charmed, I am ravished with this meeting.
 “ Who would have imagined that by chance,
 “ and

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“and in a stage-coach, I should have found
 “what I have so earnestly sought for these three
 “months, a person with whom I could contract
 “a violent friendship, such as minds like our’s
 “are only capable of feeling.”

“I am extremely obliged to you, madam, for
 “your good opinion,” said miss Courteney; “I
 “hope I shall never be so unfortunate as to for-
 “feit it; indeed I have reason to think that in
 “my present distressed situation, a friend is a
 “blessing sent from heaven.”

“Well! but my dear Clelia,” said this flighty
 lady, “you have not told me all your story—
 “I call you Clelia, because you know it is so
 “like common acquaintance to address one an-
 “other by the title of Miss such a one—Ro-
 “mantick names give a spirit to the corres-
 “pondence between such friends as you and I
 “are; but perhaps you may like another name
 “better than Clelia; though I think that is a
 “mighty pretty one, so soft and gliding, Clelia,
 “Clelia—tell me do you like it, my dear?”

“Call me what you please,” said miss Cour-
 teney, smiling a little at the singularity of her
 new friend; “but my name is Courteney.”

“Courteney is a very pretty surname,” said
 the lady; “I hope it is not disgraced with any

“ odious vulgar christian name, such as Molly,
 “ or Betty, or the like.”

“ I was christened Henrietta, after my mo-
 “ ther,” said miss Courteney. “ Henrietta is well
 “ enough—returned the other ; but positively,
 “ my dear, you must assume the name of Cle-
 “ lia when you write to me ; for we must cor-
 “ respond every hour— Oh ! what a ravishing
 “ pleasure is it to indulge the overflowings of
 “ one’s heart upon paper ! Remember to call
 “ me Celinda in your letters ; and in all our
 “ private conversations, we shall have a thou-
 “ sand secrets to communicate to each other.
 “ But I am impatient to know all your story ;
 “ it must needs be very romantick and pretty.”

“ Alas !” said the charming Henrietta, “ this
 “ is no time to relate my misfortunes ; we are
 “ entered into Hammersmith, and there you
 “ say you must leave me : give me your advice,
 “ dear madam, as to the manner in which I must
 “ dispose of myself.”

“ *Dear madam,*” repeated the lady--“ is that
 “ the style then you resolve to use ; have you
 “ forgot that we have contracted a violent friend-
 “ ship, and that I am your Celinda, and you
 “ my Clelia.”

“ I beg your pardon,” said Henrietta ; “ I did
 “ not think of that name : well then, dear Ce-
 “ linda,

“linda, what would you advise me to do? I
 “am going to London, there to conceal myself
 “from the search that lady Meadows will doubt-
 “less make for me when she hears I have left her
 “house: all my hope of a reconciliation with
 “her is through the interposition of a friend. I
 “have a brother, who has been abroad these
 “ten years, and whom I every day expect to
 “hear is arrived; but I dare not show myself
 “to any of lady Meadows’s acquaintance, lest
 “I should be hurried back, and sacrificed to
 “what she calls my interest. I know so little
 “of the town, that I am afraid I may take up
 “my residence in an improper house, among
 “people where my honour, or at least my re-
 “putation, may be in danger. Direct me,
 “dear madam--- My dear Celinda, I would
 “say, direct me what to do in this dreadful di-
 “lemma.” Here she paused, anxiously expect-
 ing the answer of her new friend, which will be
 found in the following chapter.

C H A P. III.

Which illustrates an observation of Rochefoucault's, that in the misfortunes of our friends there is always something that does not displease us.

“**I** Protest, my dearest Clelia,” said the lady, “your fears are very natural upon this occasion. I should in your situation be almost distracted. Even our parents’ watchful cares are hardly sufficient to guard us against the attempts of insolent men : how much more then are those attempts to be dreaded, when we are left defenceless and exposed. Believe me, my dear, I sympathize truly with you in this misfortune. Good Heaven ! I think I should die with apprehension were I in your case.”

“Don’t terrify me,” said miss Courteney, trembling. “I have taken an imprudent step, but I must make the best of it now : Providence, I hope, will be my guard.

“I would not terrify you, my dear,” said the lady ; “but I must repeat, that were I in your case, I think my fears would distract me. Thank Heaven ? I am protected by watchful parents, cautious relations, and prudent friends ;
“ yet

“ yet hardly thus can I think myself secure from
“ these enterprising wretches the men,”

This young lady had indeed a stronger protector than all these, which she did not mention, or perhaps was insensible of; and that was the extreme disagreeableness of her whole person. Her features, it is true, could not be called irregular, because few faces were ever distinguished with a set more uniformly bad. Her complexion, which was a composition of green and yellow, was marvelously well suited to her features. Nor was it possible to make any invidious comparisons between her face and her shape, since it was hard to decide which was worse.

Miss Courteney, who had burst into tears, occasioned by her reflections on her own helpless situation, compared with the advantages her friend enjoyed, and which she had so ostentatiously enumerated, was upon the point of soliciting her advice again; when the lady joyfully exclaimed, “ Oh! there is my aunt’s
“ house, my dear Clelia, we must part immediately.”

“ Sure,” said Henrietta, sighing, “ you will
“ not leave me till you have advised me what
“ to do.”

“ Lord! —

“Lord! my dear,” said the other, “one young creature is not qualified to give another advice upon such occasions. I wish it was in my power to give you proper advice; you know I have vowed to you an inviolable friendship.” And, —

Here the coachman, as he had been directed, stopped before a large handsome house; and a well-dressed footman immediately appearing, came forwards to open the coach-door.

“Hear me one word,” cried miss Courteney, perceiving this tender friend was actually going to leave her without any farther solicitude for her safety — “upon the strength of that inviolable friendship you have vowed to me, I will venture to ask a favour of you: it is, pursued she, that you will recommend me to some person of your acquaintance in London, who may direct me to a decent house, where I can remain in safety till my brother’s arrival.”

“I vow this is a lucky thought,” said the lady; “I believe I can serve you, my dear Clelia; but you must step in with me to my aunt’s. John,” said she to the servant, “is my aunt at home.” The man told her his lady was just gone to take an airing.

“That’s well,” said the lady; “we shall have
 “an opportunity to settle this matter: but, my
 “dear Clelia, I think it will be best to discharge
 “the coach, the fellow possibly will not wait.
 “I’ll send my aunt’s servant to take a place
 “for you in the Hammersmith stage, which
 “I know does not set out this half hour.”

Henrietta readily complied, overjoyed that she
 had really found a sincere friend in the person
 of this whimsical lady; who, having led her
 into a large well-furnished parlour, ordered
 some tea to be brought, and then told her, that
 she would give her a letter to her millener,
 who was a very good sort of a woman, and
 where she might depend upon being absolutely
 safe.

“When I was last in town,” pursued she,
 “which was about three weeks ago, her first
 “floor was empty; and in this season of the
 “year, I believe she will let it to you for two
 “guineas a week.”

“A single room will do for me,” said miss
 Courteney; “my circumstances do not entitle
 “me to magnificent lodgings, and my business
 “is to keep myself private.”

“Well, well, my dear, be that as you please,”
 said the other; “I will write the letter with-
 “out mentioning what lodgings you require.”

Saying

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Saying this, she called for pens and paper ; and having wrote the following billet, gave it to miss Courteney for her perusal.

‘ Dear Mrs. EGRET,

‘ THE lady who will deliver you this, is
 ‘ one for whom I have the most violent friend-
 ‘ ship imaginable. You know how ardent my
 ‘ friendships are ; but I think I never had any
 ‘ so firmly rooted as this, though our acquaint-
 ‘ ance commenced but a few hours ago. This
 ‘ dear friend having desired me to recommend
 ‘ her to some person to lodge with, I thought of
 ‘ you, knowing you can accommodate her with
 ‘ genteel apartments. I am, dear Mrs Egret,

‘ Your humble servant,

‘ E. WOODBY.’

Henrietta having read the letter, returned it again into the hands of her friend, gratefully acknowledging the favour, although she had some objections to it ; for she did not approve of the words genteel apartments, being resolved not to exceed a very moderate price : but she rightly conceived that miss Woodby rather listened to her own pride than her convenience.

niency, by throwing in that circumstance, and therefore took no notice of it.

The letter being sealed and directed, miss Courteney carefully deposited it in her pocket, and the two ladies were preparing to drink their tea, when the footman entered, and said the stage-coach was just going off: our fair traveller instantly rose up, and took leave of her friend, who having prevailed upon her to drink a glass of sack and water, since she was disappointed of her tea, parted with her with an affectionate embrace, and a promise that she would see her in town very shortly.

Miss Courteney finding only one passenger in the coach, who was a grave elderly woman, she resumed her journey with some kind of cheerfulness, having thus happily got over her apprehensions of falling into bad company, where chance might have directed her to lodge.

C H A P. IV.

In which our heroine, through inattention, falls into the very difficulty she had taken such pains to avoid.

BUT this cessation from uneasiness did not last long: for the mind which can fasten with violence but upon one circumstance of distress at a time, and being suddenly relieved from that, is sensible of a calm, which, compared with its former feelings, may be called pleasure, yet soon selects another object to engross its attention, and fixes on it with equal anxiety and solicitude. Thus it fared with our lovely heroine, whose others cares had all been swallowed up in reflections on the danger to which her honour was exposed. Eased of these apprehensions by the good offices of miss Woodby, she was happy for a few moments, till the consequences of her flight rush'd full upon her mind: lady Meadows's favour irrecoverable; her fortune ruined; her reputation blasted. This last thought, which, from the delicacy of her sentiments, gave her the deepest regret, dwelt most upon her mind; and forgetting that she was not alone, she clasped her

her hands together in a violent emotion, and burst into tears.

The old gentlewoman, who had been eyeing her very attentively, not a little surprised at the seriousness that appeared in the looks and behaviour of so young a creature, eagerly asked her, What was the matter?

Henrietta, roused by this question, which, (so absent had she been) first informed her she was observed, wiped her eyes, and composing her countenance, said she was often low-spirited.

"Don't tell me of low spirits," said the old gentlewoman, "such young bodies as you are not low-spirited for nothing. What! I warrant you, there is a sweetheart in the case."

"Oh! no, madam," said miss Courteney, blushing, "no sweetheart, I assure you."

"No, really," resumed she; "well then, I suppose you have lost a friend."

"I have indeed lost a friend," said the young lady; hoping that acknowledgment would put an end to the questions of her fellow-traveller.

"Indeed!" said the old woman; "and this friend --- is it a father, or mother, or sister, or ---"

All, all," interrupted miss Courteney; bursting again into tears.

"How

"How all?" repeated the old woman. "Have you just now lost all these relations?"

"I lost them all in losing that friend, madam," said Henrietta; vexed that her sensibility, wakened by such questions, had made her too little guarded in her expressions.

"Oh, Oh, I understand you, child," said the good gentlewoman: "this person, I don't ask you whether it was a man or woman, was to you both father and mother. Well; and so I suppose you have just heard of the death of this good friend, and are going to town on that occasion."

Miss Courteney finding that the inquisitive temper of her fellow-traveller was likely to lead her into a discovery of her situation, chose rather to be silent than violate truth, by feigning circumstances, to deceive her; and, fortunately for her, she was prevented from suffering more disagreeable interrogatories, by the coach suddenly stopping at an inn in Piccadilly, where it put up.

The old gentlewoman, however, at parting, asked her what part of the town she was going to, and offered, if it was in her way, to accompany her; but Henrietta evaded the question and the offer, by telling her, that she should take a chair. The coachman accordingly called one for

for her, which she entered immediately; and being asked by the chairman where she would please to be carried? she recollected with great confusion, that miss Woodby had not told her where her millener lived.

She now sought for the letter, hoping there was a full direction upon that. But what was her grief and perplexity, when she found the superscription contained only these words “For Mrs. Egret.” “Good Heaven!” exclaimed the fair unfortunate, “what shall I do now?”

The chairman repeating his question; she told him that she had forgot a direction, and asked him, if he knew where Mrs. Egret, a millener, lived? The fellow replied in the negative; but added, that he would enquire. He accordingly stepped into the nearest shop, which was a haberdasher’s, and making a small blunder in the name, which the person he spoke to mistook for Eccles, he was told, that the millener he enquired for lived in Charles street.

The fellow returned extremely pleased with his success, and relieved the young lady from her anxiety, who bid him carry her directly to Charles street; and she soon found herself at the door of a millener’s shop, where she discharged her chairmen; and entering, asked a young woman,

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“I lost them all in losing that friend, madam,” said Henrietta; vexed that her sensibility, wakened by such questions, had made her too little guarded in her expressions.

“Oh, Oh, I understand you, child,” said the good gentlewoman: “this person, I don’t ask you whether it was a man or woman, was to you both father and mother. Well; and so I suppose you have just heard of the death of this good friend, and are going to town on that occasion.”

Miss Courteney finding that the inquisitive temper of her fellow-traveller was likely to lead her into a discovery of her situation, chose rather to be silent than violate truth, by feigning circumstances, to deceive her; and, fortunately for her, she was prevented from suffering more disagreeable interrogatories, by the coach suddenly stopping at an inn in Piccadilly, where it put up.

The old gentlewoman, however, at parting, asked her what part of the town she was going to, and offered, if it was in her way, to accompany her; but Henrietta evaded the question and the offer, by telling her, that she should take a chair. The coachman accordingly called one

for

for her, which she entered immediately; and being asked by the chairman where she would please to be carried? she recollected with great confusion, that miss Woodby had not told her where her millener lived.

She now sought for the letter, hoping there was a full direction upon that. But what was her grief and perplexity, when she found the superscription contained only these words "For Mrs. Egret." "Good Heaven!" exclaimed the fair unfortunate, "what shall I do now?"

The chairman repeating his question; she told him that she had forgot a direction, and asked him, if he knew where Mrs. Egret, a millener, lived? The fellow replied in the negative; but added, that he would enquire. He accordingly stepped into the nearest shop, which was a haberdasher's, and making a small blunder in the name, which the person he spoke to mistook for Eccles, he was told, that the millener he enquired for lived in Charles street.

The fellow returned extremely pleased with his success, and relieved the young lady from her anxiety, who bid him carry her directly to Charles street; and she soon found herself at the door of a millener's shop, where she discharged her chairmen; and entering, asked a young woman,

woman, whom she saw at work, if her mistress was at home?

The girl desired her to walk into a parlour, where she was met by an agreeable well-dressed woman, who received her with great politeness, and desired to know her commands.

“I have a letter for you,” said Henrietta, putting it into her hands, “from a young lady, “a customer of your’s, the contents will acquaint you with my business.”

The millener took the letter, and having read it, returned it again with a smile, saying, “She “was not the person to whom it was addressed.”

“No! madam,” said miss Courteney, excessively surprised, “Is not your name Egret?”

“My name is Eccles, madam,” said the millener. “Bless me!” cried miss Courteney, “the chairmen have made a mistake: I bid one “of them enquire where Mrs. Egret, a millener, “lived, and he was directed hither. I shall be “obliged to you, pursued Henrietta, if you will “let your maid call a chair.”

“To be sure, madam,” said the millener; “but “do you not know where this Mrs. Egret lives?”

“I have unfortunately forgot to get a direction,” returned the young lady; “but I hope “you can inform me.”

“ I wish I could, madam,” said the millener;
 “ but really I know no such person as Mrs. Egret.”
 “ Surely I am the most unfortunate creature in
 “ the world !” cried Henrietta.

“ I hope not, madam,” said Mrs. Eccles, with
 a look of great complacency : “ there are more
 “ persons, besides Mrs. Egret, who would be glad
 “ to accommodate you with lodgings. I wish
 “ mine were good enough for you.”

“ Oh ! I dare say they are good enough,” re-
 plied miss Courteney ; “ but I was recommended
 “ to Mrs. Egret, and—” “ Pray, madam, walk
 “ up, and look at my first floor,” said Mrs.
 Eccles ; and, without waiting for any reply, im-
 mediately led the way.

Henrietta followed in such perplexity of mind,
 that she hardly knew what she did ; and, while
 the officious millener led her from room to room,
 expatiating at large upon the conveniencies,
 miss Courteney continued silent, revolving in
 her thoughts the dilemma to which she was re-
 duced.

The evening was so far advanced, that she
 could not think of going in quest of Mrs. Egret,
 of whom she could get no information here ;
 yet she was not able to resolve upon taking lodg-
 ings in the house of a person, to whom she was
 an absolute stranger : a misfortune which she had

vainly endeavoured to avoid by the application she had made to miss Woodby.

“ I am afraid you don't like this apartment, “ madam,” said Mrs. Eccles ; who observed her look pensive and uneasy. “ I have no objection to it,” said miss Courteney ; “ but that “ it is rather too good. I do not propose to go “ to a high price ; a bedchamber and the use of “ a parlour will be sufficient for me.”

The millener looked a little dissatisfied at these words, but told her she could accommodate her with a large handsome bedchamber up two pair of stairs, but added, that she had no other parlour than that which she kept for her own use.

Miss Courteney desired to see the room, which was indeed very handsome and convenient ; and the millener perceiving she liked it, told her, that she should be welcome to the use of the dining-room till her first floor was let.

The young lady thought this an obliging proposal ; and being pleased with the woman's countenance and behaviour, ventured to make an agreement with her, and every thing being settled upon very easy terms, “ there is but one “ difficulty remaining,” said she, with an engaging smile, “ and that I know not how we “ shall get over ; we are strangers to each other.”

“ Oh,

“ Oh, madam,” interrupted Mrs. Eccles,
 “ though it is not my custom to take in lodgers
 “ without having a character, yet I can have
 “ no scruple with regard to a lady of your ap-
 “ pearance. As for me, I have lived a great
 “ many years in this neighbourhood, and am
 “ not afraid of having my character enquired
 “ into.”

She spoke this with a little warmth, which made Henrietta imagine she expected the same degree of confidence she had shown : so making a merit of necessity, she appeared very well satisfied, and immediately took possession of her new apartment,

C H A P. V.

Which contains nothing but very common occurrences.

MRS. Eccles being summoned into her shop by a customer, miss Courteney desired her to send up pen, ink, and paper, being resolved to write to miss Woodby that night, and acquaint her with the disappointment she had met with. The maid soon appeared with candles and all the materials for writing ; delivering at the same time her mistress's compliments to the

young lady, and a request that she would favour her with her company to supper. Miss Courteney promised to wait on her, provided she was alone; and, sitting down, wrote the following letter to her new friend.

‘ YOU will no doubt, my dear miss Woodby,
 ‘ be both surpris’d and grieved to know that
 ‘ your kind intentions have been frustrated; and
 ‘ that by forgetting to give me a direction, your
 ‘ recommendation to Mrs. Egret has proved use-
 ‘ less to me. By a mistake of the chairman,
 ‘ who I desired to enquire where Mrs. Egret
 ‘ lived, I was brought to another millener’s,
 ‘ and she not being able to direct me where to
 ‘ find her, I am obliged to take up my lodging
 ‘ with a stranger. It was my apprehensions of
 ‘ what has befallen me, that induced me to trust
 ‘ you with my secret, a secret of the highest
 ‘ importance to me; and most generously did
 ‘ you repay my confidence by your ready assist-
 ‘ ance. It was my ill fortune which ordered it so,
 ‘ that I should not profit by your kindness.
 ‘ However, my gratitude is equally engaged,
 ‘ and since I observe nothing disagreeable in the
 ‘ behaviour of the person in whose house I now
 ‘ am, I shall endeavour to make myself easy
 ‘ here till I hear from you. I long to see you,
 ‘ to

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' to tell you my unhappy story, to have your
 ' compassion, or rather to be justified by your
 ' approbation of what I have been compelled by
 ' circumstances to do. Oh! my dear miss, how
 ' unhappy is that mind, which, with right in-
 ' tentions, feels a consciousness of something
 ' wrong in its resolutions! Direct for me by the
 ' name of Benson, at Mrs. Eccles's, millener,
 ' in Charles street. Adieu. I sign the pretty
 ' name you gave me.

' CLELIA.'

Henrietta had just sealed her letter, when
 somebody tapp'd at her door; she opened it im-
 mediately, and, seeing Mrs. Eccles, asked her
 pardon for not waiting on her before. Mrs.
 Eccles told her, that her little supper being ready,
 she came to see if she was at leisure.

Miss Courteney found the cloth laid in the
 parlour, and an elegant supper was served up.
 Mrs. Eccles did not fail to apologize frequently
 for the meanness of her entertainment, and was
 gratified with as many assurances from her fair
 guest, that no apology was necessary. During
 the repast, Mrs. Eccles entertained her with
 an account of the newest fashions, the most ce-
 lebrated performers of the opera and playhouses,
 little pieces of scandal, and the like topicks of

conversation, which Henrietta had often heard discussed among her more polite acquaintance, and indeed almost the only ones that engage the attention during the recess of the card-table.

The millener then turning the discourse to the accident that procured her so agreeable a lodger, artfully pursued her hints till the young lady found herself obliged to satisfy in some degree her curiosity concerning her situation.

Though she was naturally communicative, even to a fault; yet she did not think proper to disclose herself farther, than to tell her, that she had been obliged to come to London upon some affairs of consequence, which could not be settled till the arrival of her brother, who was every day expected from his travels.

This account was so near the truth, that miss Courteney, in the simplicity of her own heart, thought it could not fail of being believed. However, the millener, who knew the world very well, conceived there was something extraordinary in the case—nothing less than a love-intrigue: nor did this suspicion give her any uneasiness. She was one of those convenient persons with whom a lady, upon paying a certain sum of money, might lie-in privately, and be properly attended. She made no scruple of accommodating with lodgings a young wife, whose husband,

husband, for certain family reasons, visits her only now and then; and as she generally found her account in such sort of lodgers, she seldom desired, and indeed was seldom encumbered with any other.

The youth, beauty, and elegance of miss Courteney, the introductory letter so oddly conceived, her apparent perplexity and concern upon her disappointment of the lodgings she had expected, raised suspicions, which the story she now heard, confirmed; and not doubting but this affair would prove beneficial to her, she exerted her utmost endeavours to please her fair lodger, and engage her to an entire confidence.

When the clock struck eleven, Henrietta rose up in order to retire to her own chamber, to which Mrs. Eccles officiously attended her; having taken leave of her at the door, she bolted it on the inside, and, after recommending herself to the protection of Heaven, went to bed, but not to rest. A thousand inquietudes kept her waking till the morning, when she sunk into a slumber that lasted till eleven o'clock.

As soon as she opened her eyes, she was informed, by the strong light in her chamber, that the morning was far advanced; and, finding by her watch, which lay on a chair near her bed-side, how much she had exceeded her usual time (for

she was a very early riser) she hurried on her cloaths, and went down stairs, being extremely anxious to get her letter sent to miss Woodby: she went directly into the shop, supposing she should find Mrs. Eccles there; but was excessively surprised to hear from the apprentice, that her mistress was not yet up.

“I suppose,” said miss Courteney, “she rested
“no better than myself last night, which was the
“cause of my lying so late this morning.”

“La! ma’am,” replied the girl, “my mistress is never up before eleven or twelve.”
“Indeed!” said the young lady, dissembling her concern at a circumstance which gave her no favourable opinion of her landlady. “But,
“madam,” added the girl, “you may have
“your breakfast whenever you please to order
“it. She then called the maid, whom miss Courteney ordered to fetch a porter, being determined to have her letter delivered into miss Woodby’s own hands, if possible. A porter was soon found, who undertook to carry the letter to Hammersmith as directed, and this affair being dispatched, Henrietta ordered some coffee for her breakfast, and retired to her own chamber.

C H A P. VI.

In which miss Woodby again makes her appearance.

IN about a quarter of an hour, Mrs. Eccles appeared, in a long loose linen sack, being her morning dress, and insisted upon miss Courteney's breakfasting with her; who at length consented, having agreed to pay at the rate of a guinea a week for her board, during the time she stayed, which she inly determined should not be long.

After the tea-things were removed, she went into the shop to make a purchase of some ribbons and gloves; and while she was amusing herself with looking over a great variety of fashionable trifles, which the apprentice officiously shewed her, a young gentleman, who had been attracted by her appearance, came into the shop, and asked to look at some Dresden ruffles. Henrietta, blushing at the earnestness with which he gazed on her, retired immediately, telling Mrs. Eccles, as she passed through the parlour, that there was a gentleman in the shop. The millener, upon this information, lifted up her hands mechanically to her head to adjust her hair,

and hastened to attend her customer; while her fair lodger, taking a book that lay in the window, went to her own apartment, with an intention to amuse herself with reading till the long'd-for return of her messenger.

The book however, which was a volume of the new *Atalantis*, did not suit her taste; she threw it away, and abandoned herself to her own melancholy reflections, which were at length interrupted by her landlady, who entered the room with a smiling air, telling her, she had had a very good customer.

"I am glad of it," said Henrietta.

"Truly," said Mrs. Eccles, "I believe I am obliged to your fair face for my good luck this morning." "How!—" returned the young lady, with a countenance graver than before.

"Nay, never wonder at it," said Mrs. Eccles, "the gentleman laid out twelve guineas with me; but I don't believe he wanted the things he bought. You were the loadstone," added she smartly, "that drew him into the shop. —He asked me a hundred questions about you."

"I am sorry for it," said miss Courteney, "I wish I had not been in the shop." "And why sorry, pray," resumed Mrs. Eccles, "I warrant you are sorry you are handsome too—

"How—

“However, I have another thing to tell you, to
“increase your sorrow, and that is, that you
“have certainly made a conquest of this fine
“spark ; and, to overwhelm you with afflic-
“tion,” pursued she, laughing, “I verily be-
“lieve he is a man of quality.”

“Do you know him then,” said miss Courteney ; who could not help smiling a little at her vivacity.

“I only judge by his appearance and man-
“ners,” replied Mrs. Eccles, “that he is a
“man of rank ; but I dare say, we shall hear
“more from him.” “Sure—Mrs. Eccles !”
interrupted miss Courteney, with some emo-
tion.

“Nay, nay, child,” exclaimed Mrs. Eccles,
“don’t put yourself into a flurry ; I don’t know
“that I shall ever see him again——But, pray
“what book have you got here ?” “One I
“found in your parlour,” said miss Courteney.
“Oh, I see what it is,” cried Mrs. Eccles,
opening it ; “it is a charming pretty book. If
“you love reading, miss, I can furnish you
“with books ; I have a very pretty collection—
“I should be glad to see your collection,” said
the young lady, who was apprehensive of her re-
newing a conversation that had been very dis-
agreeable to her.

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Mrs. Eccles immediately led her into a little room on the same floor, and opening a closet, in which there were about two dozen books ranged on a shelf, she bid her take her choice, for there was variety enough.

Henrietta soon examined the so much boasted collection, which she found chiefly consisted of novels and plays. "Well," said Mrs. Eccles, "how do you like my books? are they not prettily chosen?"

"I assure you," replied she, taking down one, "you chose very well when you chose this; for it is one of the most exquisite pieces of humour in our language." "I knew you would approve of my taste," said Mrs. Eccles, "but what have you got?—O! the Adventures of Joseph Andrews—Yes; that is a very pretty book, to be sure!—but there is Mrs. Haywood's Novels, did you ever read them?—Oh! they are the finest love-sick, passionate stories; I assure you, you'll like them vastly: pray, take a volume of Haywood upon my recommendation." "Excuse me," said Henrietta, "I am very well satisfied with what I have; I have read this book three times already, and yet I assure you, I shall begin it again with as much eagerness and delight as I did at first."

"Well,

“ Well, as you please,” said Mrs. Eccles, leaving her at the door of her own chamber, “ I won’t disturb you till dinner is ready.”

Miss Courteney sat down to her book, which agreeably engaged her attention, till she was interrupted with the pleasing news of her porter’s being returned : she flew down stairs ; he delivered her a letter, the seal of which she eagerly broke, and found it as follows.

CELINDA to her dearest CLELIA.

‘ NO words can describe the excess of my
‘ grief at the news of your disappointment : but,
‘ my dear, how was it possible for your chair-
‘ men to mistake the house so egregiously— not
‘ know where Mrs. Egret lived !— Foolish fel-
‘ lows ! she is one of the greatest milleners in
‘ town, and employed by persons of the first
‘ rank. But don’t be uneasy, I shall see you
‘ this afternoon : your messenger found me pre-
‘ paring to set out for town with my aunt—
‘ Adieu, my Clelia, and believe me with the
‘ most unparallel’d affection, ever your’s,

‘ CELINDA.’

The hopes of seeing her friend, and being settled in more agreeable lodgings, gave Hen-
rietta

rietta such a flow of spirits, that when she was summoned to dinner by her landlady, she appeared less reserved than usual, and even kept up the conversation with some kind of chearfulness. Mrs. Eccles, finding her in so good a humour, introduced the subject which ran most in her head—The fine young gentleman, who had been her customer in the morning, was praised in raptures of admiration—so genteel, so well bred—such sparkling eyes, such an air of distinction—— Every now and then exclaiming—“ Well, you have certainly made a conquest of him— we shall see him again, never fear— he’ll find his way here again, I warrant him.”

Miss Courteney, to put an end to this discourse, told her landlady, that she expected a lady to drink tea with her that afternoon; Mrs. Eccles immediately gave orders for the dining-room to be put in order, and thither miss Courteney retired in expectation of her visiter. At six o’clock a footman’s rap at the door announced the arrival of miss Woodby; Henrietta ran to the head of the stairs to receive her.

“ O Heavens ! my dear creature” cried miss Woodby, “ What trouble have I been in upon your account !— but even the disquiets of friendship are pleasing ; I would not be in-
 “ fible

“sible of that charming passion, nor without an
“object of it for the world.”

Miss Courteney thanked her in very obliging terms, while her sentimental friend adjusted her dress in the glass, and then throwing herself into a chair, declared that she was all impatience to hear her history.

“Permit me,” said miss Courteney, “to inform you first, that I am not easy here, I do not greatly like my landlady, and I wish I could remove this very night.” Miss Woodby told her it was impossible, because she had not yet seen Mrs. Egret, but that she would go to her in the morning, and prepare her for her coming. Henrietta, being now at ease, complied with her friend’s request, and began her little history in this manner.

CHAP,

C H A P. VII.

*In which Henrietta relates the story of her parents,
introductory to her own.*

“ I T is no wonder, my dear miss Woodby,
“ that at these early years I am precipitated
“ into distresses and dangers; my very birth
“ was a misfortune to my parents, and intailed
“ upon them those miseries which began by
“ their unhappy passion.

“ My father was the youngest of three brothers, but so great a favourite of his father the
“ earl of —, that it was thought he would
“ make his fortune very considerable, having a
“ very large estate, and a very lucrative employment, out of which he every year laid by large
“ sums to provide for his younger sons, of whom
“ my father, as I have already said, was the best
“ beloved.

“ It happened one day, that the widow of an
“ officer in the army came to solicit the earl’s
“ interest towards getting her a pension. She
“ was accompanied by her daughter, a young
“ woman about sixteen years of age, and who
“ must at that time have been exquisitely
“ handsome, since, after a long series of troubles,

bles, and in an age more advanced, she appeared to me one of the most beautiful women in the world.

The widow, by a certain method of persuasion which operates powerfully on the do-mesticks of men in place, got her petition sent up to the earl. It imported that her husband, after having served near fifty years in the army, had obtained leave to sell his commission for the benefit of his wife and child; that the money arising from it had been deposited in the hands of an agent who had broke a few months afterwards, by which unhappy accident all the money was lost, and this loss had so greatly affected the old gentleman, that he died a few weeks afterwards, leaving his wife and child wholly unprovided for, and made wretched by those very means that were calculated to secure them a gentle subsistence, since by the sale of her husband's commission, the widow was no longer intitled to a pension, which however she hoped to obtain, in consideration of his long services, and the peculiar circumstances of her misfortune.

The widow, who knew it was in this nobleman's power to put her immediately upon the list of pensions, conceived great hopes of
the

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“ the success of her application, when, after
 “ waiting two hours in the hall, she was or-
 “ dered to attend his lordship in his li-
 “ brary.

“ The nobleman received her with civility
 “ enough ; but his first words destroyed those
 “ expectations with which she had flattered her-
 “ self.

“ I am sorry it is not in my power to do you
 “ any service, said he ; your husband sold out,
 “ therefore you have no right to the pension.
 “ I pity your misfortune ; but in this case there
 “ is nothing to be done.

“ The widow was a woman of sense and
 “ breeding : she was sensible that the earl paid
 “ no regard to her plea, otherwise he would
 “ not have urged that as an argument against
 “ granting her petition, without which no peti-
 “ tion would have been necessary : intreaties
 “ she found would be fruitless, therefore she
 “ would not descend to the meanness of a sup-
 “ pliant, but curtsy'd in silent anguish, and
 “ withdrew.

“ My father, who was present at this scene,
 “ and who had beheld the decent sorrow of the
 “ mother with reverence, the innocent beauty
 “ of the daughter with tender admiration, im-
 “ pelled by an emotion which yet he knew not
 “ the

“ the cause of, hastily followed them, and offered his hand to the widow to lead her down stairs.

“ She, who from a natural dignity of sentiment, had been enabled to endure the supercilious behaviour of the father without betraying any signs of discomposure, burst into tears at this instance of unexpected attention and respect in the son.

“ Mr. Courteney, as he led her down stairs, had his eyes incessantly turned towards the young lady, who followed blushing to see herself so earnestly beheld. He found they had not a coach waiting for them, he ordered a servant to call one; and in the meantime desired they would walk into a parlour, where he took occasion to express his concern to the widow for the disappointment she had met with; but assured her, that he would employ his good offices in her favour, and from the influence he had over his father, hoped he should succeed. He then desired to know where he might wait upon her, in case he had any good news to bring her.

“ The widow, charmed with his politeness, astonished at his kindness, and full of hope and pleasing expectation, gave him a direction in writing, which she had brought with her.

“ Mr.

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“ Mr. Courteney received it, bowing low,
 “ as if she had conferred a favour on him; a
 “ favour it was indeed, for, by this time, he
 “ was lost in love for the charming daughter,
 “ whose looks discovered such soft sensibility of
 “ her situation, such conscious dignity, which
 “ misfortune could not impair; such calm resig-
 “ nation, as if, superior to her woes, that her
 “ beauty seemed her least perfection; and he
 “ was more captivated by the graces of her
 “ mind that shone out in her person, than with
 “ her lovely person itself.

“ The coach was now come; he sighed when
 “ he took leave of them, rivetting his eyes on
 “ the young charmer, who modestly looked
 “ down, unable to bear his ardent glances.
 “ Again he assured the widow of his services;
 “ and, suddenly recollecting himself, he put a
 “ purse into her hand, begging her to accept
 “ that trifle as an earnest of his friendship.

“ The lady was so much surprised at his be-
 “ haviour, that she was at a loss in what manner
 “ to answer him; and, before she could form
 “ any, she found herself in the coach, to which
 “ he had accompanied her with great respect.
 “ When the coach drove from the door, she ex-
 “ mined the contents of the purse, and found five
 “ and twenty guineas in it: a present, which, if

“ had

" had been less, would have mortified her pride,
 " and, being so considerable, alarmed her pru-
 " dence. She recollected every circumstance of
 " the young gentleman's behaviour, and all con-
 " tributed to persuade her, that he was actuated
 " by some motive more forcible than mere com-
 " passion.

" She remembered that she had caught him
 " gazing earnestly at her daughter; she reproach-
 " ed herself for taking her with her, for accept-
 " ing the money, for giving a direction. She
 " dreaded the consequence of having exposed her
 " child to the attempts of a young man formed
 " to please, and by his rank and fortune enabled
 " to pursue every method that could gratify his
 " passions. She began now to be solicitous
 " about the effect such uncommon generosity
 " had on the mind of her daughter. She asked
 " her what she thought of the gentleman who
 " so kindly interested himself in their affairs,
 " notwithstanding the cruel denial his father had
 " given?

" Miss, whose gratitude had with difficulty
 " been restrained from rising from her heart to
 " her tongue, eagerly seized this opportunity to
 " praise their benefactor. Her expressions were
 " so lively, she showed so tender a sensibility
 " of his kindness, such a blushing approbation
 " of

“ of his person and manners, that the good
 “ widow thought proper to check her vivacity
 “ by a little reproof, and attributed all the re-
 “ spect he had shown them to his natural polite-
 “ ness, and his offers of service, and the present
 “ he had forced on her, to a sudden fall of
 “ compassion which young unexperienced per-
 “ sons are liable to. However, her apprehen-
 “ sions were now increased; and when Mr.
 “ Courteney came to see her, in consequence
 “ of his promise, which was two days after wards,
 “ she had already taken her resolution.

“ She took care that her daughter should not
 “ be in the way when he sent up his name;
 “ and notwithstanding the politeness with which
 “ he accosted her, she observed that he was dis-
 “ appointed, and that his eyes involuntarily
 “ sought out an object which he more wished to
 “ see than her.

“ I don't know whether these little particu-
 “ lars may not seem tedious to you, my dear
 “ miss Woodby; but I have often heard my
 “ mother repeat them with delight; declaring
 “ that these first tokens of my father's affection
 “ for her made so deep an impression on her
 “ heart, fluctuating, as it then was, between
 “ hope and fear, that she ever retained the most
 “ lively remembrance of them, and could never
 “ relate

“ relate them without feeling in some degree the
“ same pleasing emotions with which she was at
“ that time agitated.

“ Mr. Courteney began the conversation with
“ assuring the widow, that he had been mindful
“ of her affairs ; that his solicitations had not
“ yet indeed had the desired effect ; but that he
“ hoped shortly to bring her better news. The
“ widow thanked him with great politeness for
“ his kind interposition in her favour, which
“ she declared would always have a claim to her
“ sincerest gratitude, whether he succeeded or
“ not in his applications. She then drew the
“ purse out of her pocket, and putting it respect-
“ fully into his hands, told him, that not being
“ in any immediate necessity, she begged he
“ would not take it ill if she declined accepting
“ a present which would lay her under an unre-
“ turnable obligation.

“ Mr. Courteney blushed with surprize and
“ disappointment— but the dignity with which
“ she looked and spoke, making it impossible
“ for him to press her any farther, he received
“ the money back again with a low bow, apo-
“ logizing at the same time for the liberty he had
“ taken.

“ The widow, seeing him disconcerted, po-
“ sitely recommended her interests to him ; and

“ Mr.

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“ Mr. Courteney, charmed that she would allow
 “ him to be her friend on any terms, retired
 “ with a promise that he would take as much
 “ care of them as of his own.

“ This interview,” continued Henrietta,
 “ confirmed the widow in her suspicions, that
 “ her daughter was not indifferent to their new
 “ benefactor— He had observed her scrupulous
 “ reserve with regard to the young beauty, and
 “ hoped to remove it by affecting a total neg-
 “ lect of her ; so that he did not even enquire
 “ how she did.— Whatever is done with de-
 “ sign is always overdone : the widow was per-
 “ suaded that a man of Mr. Courteney’s good
 “ breeding would not have passed over one of
 “ the common forms of politeness, but to an-
 “ swer some secret purpose. Her vigilance in-
 “ creased in proportion to her fears ; and al-
 “ though he made her several visits under pre-
 “ tence of enquiring more minutely into the
 “ circumstances of her case, yet he never was so
 “ fortunate as to find her daughter with her.

“ This conduct, while it stimulated his pas-
 “ sion, gave him a high opinion of the virtue
 “ and prudence of her, who, in such unhappy
 “ circumstances, showed such extreme attention
 “ to the honour and reputation of her child.
 “ Hitherto he had not been at the trouble to
 “ examine

“ examine his own views and designs upon this
 “ young beauty. Hurried away by the violence
 “ of his passion, he had assiduously sought op-
 “ portunities of seeing and conversing with her ;
 “ but the difficulties he met with made him look
 “ into his own heart, that he might know if he
 “ was still sufficient master of it to give over a
 “ pursuit which was likely to prove fruitless.

“ Amazed to find that what he took for a
 “ transient inclination, was a passion immove-
 “ ably fixed ; that he had formed resolutions,
 “ when he believed he had only entertained de-
 “ sires ; that the whole happiness and misery of
 “ his life was in the power of a young woman,
 “ destitute of friends, fortune, hopes and expec-
 “ tations, and rich only in beauty and virtue—
 “ for virtuous he was sure she must be, under the
 “ care of so wise and prudent a mother. He
 “ was alarmed at his own condition ; dreaded
 “ the consequences of a passion so placed as that
 “ it could never procure the sanction of his fa-
 “ ther’s consent, and resolved never more to ex-
 “ pose himself to the danger of seeing her.

“ However, he did not fail to solicit his fa-
 “ ther very earnestly in behalf of the unfortunate
 “ widow. The earl, who had taken notice of
 “ his officious respect the day she was introduced
 “ to him, and attributed it rather to the beauty

“ of the daughter than any sentiment of com-
 “ passion, began to be uneasy at his so frequently
 “ pressing him on that subject, and forbade him
 “ to mention it any more.

“ Mr. Courteney was obliged to be silent,
 “ lest he should confirm those suspicions which
 “ he saw his father had conceived ; and finding
 “ his mind in a very uneasy state, he hoped that,
 “ by removing himself to a greater distance from
 “ the object he loved, he should remove the
 “ thoughts of her likewise ; he obtained his fa-
 “ ther's content to his retiring for a few weeks
 “ to their seat in the country, under pretence of
 “ a slight indisposition ; but he could not re-
 “ solve to go without endeavouring once more
 “ to force a present upon the widow, which might
 “ prevent her being exposed to any distress during
 “ his absence.

“ He therefore wrote to her, and acquaint-
 “ ing her with the ill success of his mediation
 “ with his father, expressed the highest concern
 “ for it, and assured her that nothing could al-
 “ leviate it but her acceptance of the bank note
 “ which he inclosed, and which was for fifty
 “ pounds : he told her, he was going into the
 “ country, that she might not suppose he had
 “ any design of inducing her by such a present

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“to admit his visits; and concluded with as-
“suring her, that she might at all times com-
“mand his services, and rely on his friend-
“ship.

“He did not send away this letter till he was
“ready to take horse; and being now more
“composed, from the belief that he had silenced
“the scruples of this good woman, and secured
“her and her lovely daughter from any imme-
“diate necessity, he pursued his journey— full
“of pleasing reflections on the disinterestedness
“of his love.”

C H A P. VIII.

In which Henrietta continues her history.

“**A**BSENCE (says a certain writer) in-
“creases violent passions, and cures mo-
“derate ones; just as the wind extinguishes a
“small flame, while it makes a great one burn
“more fiercely. Mr. Courteney’s passion was
“of this kind; he had loved with violence from
“the moment he began to love. In vain he
“had recourse to books, to company, to field
“sports, and rural amusements; it was not pos-
“sible for him to call off his thoughts a moment
“from that object from whom he fled with such

“care. Two months he wore away in a constant perturbation of mind, still flattering himself that he was nearer his cure, while his disease gathered strength every day.

“It happened that one evening he fell into company with some officers, whose regiment was quartered in that part of the country; and one of them mentioned colonel Carlton, and the unhappy situation his widow and daughter were left in.

“Mr. Courteney, roused to attention by that name so dear to him, pretended to be wholly ignorant of those ladies case, that he might indulge himself in the pleasure of talking of her he loved.

“The officer gave him a circumstantial detail of what he knew as well as himself; concluding with many commendations of Mrs. Carlton’s good sense, prudence, and virtue; and such rapturous praises of the young lady’s beauty and uncommon qualifications at such early years, that Mr. Courteney, for the first time sensible of the tortures of jealousy, could with difficulty conceal his emotions.

“You speak so feelingly, said a gentleman in company, of this young lady’s perfections, that I fancy you are in love with her: come, here is her health; is it to be a match?

“ I should be but too happy in, such a wife,
 “ replied the officer ; but she deserves a better
 “ husband : it is not for a poor lieutenant, added
 “ he, smiling, to marry for love ; but if I was
 “ a man of fortune, I would prefer miss Carl-
 “ ton to all the women I have ever seen.

“ Mr. Courteney afterwards declared that he
 “ suffered inconceivable anguish during this con-
 “ versation. He quitted the company with some
 “ precipitation ; and when he was at liberty to
 “ reflect, he reproached himself a thousand times
 “ for his folly in leaving such a treasure for an-
 “ other to obtain. Every man he thought
 “ would look upon miss Carlton with the same
 “ eyes as that young officer ; and among them
 “ might not one be found blest with a fortune to
 “ make her happy, and above all narrow con-
 “ siderations which could hinder him from mak-
 “ ing himself so ?

“ Resolutions are easily formed when the
 “ heart suggests them. Mr. Courteney, who
 “ had so long fluctuated between his passion and
 “ his prudence, was, by the fear of losing what
 “ he loved, determined in an instant to put it
 “ past the possibility of losing her. His father’s
 “ anger, which at first appeared so formidable
 “ to him, was now considered as a trifle that
 “ would be easily got over : he was not going

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“ to introduce any stale mistress into a noble
 “ family, nor to give a comedian or singer for
 “ a sister to his sisters, and a daughter to his mo-
 “ ther ; alliances so much in fashion with the
 “ present race of nobility and people of fortune ;
 “ in miss Carlton he should marry birth, beauty,
 “ virtue, every perfection but riches, but un-
 “ happily that, in the estimation of his father,
 “ was worth them all.

“ His fortune indeed was undetermined ; it
 “ might be great, it might be very inconsidera-
 “ ble, since it depended upon the will of his
 “ father. His father would never consent to his
 “ marriage with miss Carlton ; but though dis-
 “ obliged, yet loving him as he did, was it likely
 “ that he would always continue inexorable ?
 “ Besides he had a certain, though a remote pro-
 “ spect of a good estate, to which he was to
 “ succeed at the death of a relation, who was
 “ old, and had been married twenty years
 “ without having ever had a child.

“ Should he find it impossible to reconcile his
 “ father to his marriage, yet he was secure at
 “ least of a genteel provision ; but with such ex-
 “ cellencies as miss Carlton was possessed of,
 “ how could it be imagined that she should not
 “ in time conciliate his father’s affections, and
 “ make him approve of his choice ?

“ There

“ There is no logick, my dear miss Woodby,
 “ like the logick of the heart. Mr. Courteney,
 “ as is usual on such occasions, having taken
 “ his resolution before he reasoned upon the
 “ matter, reasoned afterwards in such a manner
 “ as to be soon persuaded his resolution was
 “ right.

“ Early the next morning he ordered his
 “ horses to be made ready, and he returned to
 “ London with all imaginable expedition. He
 “ alighted at the house of a friend, where he dis-
 “ missed his servants and horses, and then taking
 “ a hackney coach, was driven to the street in
 “ which Mrs. Carlton lived. Upon stopping at
 “ the house, and enquiring for Mrs. Carlton, he
 “ was told that she had left it five weeks ago,
 “ and being greatly indisposed, had taken lodg-
 “ ings at Chelsea for the air.

“ Mr. Courteney, who now thought every
 “ moment an age till he saw miss Carlton,
 “ and acquainted her with his passion and his
 “ honourable intentions, procured as full a di-
 “ rection as could be given him; but notwith-
 “ standing his impatience to be with his mis-
 “ tress, he obeyed the dictates of his duty, in
 “ first going home to pay his respects to his
 “ father.

“ The earl received him a little coldly ; an
 “ expression of displeasure was on his counte-
 “ nance, which however wore off by degrees,
 “ as he enquired concerning his health, his
 “ studies and amusements, during his absence.
 “ At length seeming to recollect something, he
 “ went to his cabinet, took out a letter, the seal
 “ of which had been broke, and delivered it into
 “ his son’s hand, assuming the same angry coun-
 “ tenance as before.

“ Mr. Courteney, not able to imagine what
 “ all this meant, opened the letter hastily, and
 “ found it was from Mrs. Carlton, dated the
 “ very day of his departure, and in it was in-
 “ closed the bank note he had sent : the purport
 “ of her letter was to refuse in a genteel but
 “ steady manner all pecuniary assistance from
 “ him ; however she thanked him for his civi-
 “ lities, and acknowledged herself greatly obliged
 “ to him.

“ When Mr. Courteney had read this letter,
 “ which he did with much confusion, the earl
 “ asked him sternly, what was his design by en-
 “ gaging in such a commerce ? You are in
 “ love with the daughter, added he, no doubt
 “ —but if you corrupt her, you are not an ho-
 “ nest man ; if you marry her, you are no longer
 “ my son.

“ He left him as he pronounced these words ;
 “ and Mr. Courteney, who, while he beheld it at a
 “ distance, thought his father’s displeasure might
 “ be borne with, was overwhelmed with the
 “ first effects of it, and relapsed into all his for-
 “ mer doubts, anxiety, and irresolution.

“ He retired to his own chamber to consider
 “ on what he ought to do ; but unable to bear
 “ the cruel war which such contrary interests,
 “ such opposite wishes, such perplexed designs,
 “ raised in his mind, he hurried out of the house
 “ to lose reflection in a variety of objects, and
 “ took his way to the Park.

“ He walked down the Mall, it was crouded
 “ with company which did not in the least en-
 “ gage his attention ; he continued his walk,
 “ and, finding himself at Buckingham-gate, his
 “ steps mechanically pursued the road that led
 “ to Chelsea.

“ As soon as he saw himself near the place
 “ where his mistress resided, all other thoughts
 “ were absorbed in the transporting reflection,
 “ that he should see her within a few moments ;
 “ his father’s threats were forgot, the loss of his
 “ favour filled him with no uneasy apprehen-
 “ sions. To how many revolutions is the hu-
 “ man mind subject, when passion has assumed
 “ the reins of government which reason ought

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“ to hold ! Mr. Courteney had almost imper-
 “ ceptibly to himself resumed his first design of
 “ offering his hand to miss Carlton.

“ With very little difficulty he found out the
 “ house where her mother and she lodged ; the
 “ door was opened to him by a girl, who, upon
 “ his enquiring if Mrs. Carlton was at home,
 “ told him she was sick in bed, and, showing
 “ him into a little parlour, ran up stairs to ac-
 “ quaint miss, as he supposed, that a gentleman
 “ was there.

“ In a few minutes a venerable old woman
 “ appeared, who had so fixed a concern upon
 “ her countenance, that Mr. Courteney, shift-
 “ ing his thoughts from the illness of the mo-
 “ ther to the apprehension of some possible mis-
 “ fortune to the daughter, for love if it hopes all,
 “ fears all likewise, asked her with great emo-
 “ tion, if any thing extraordinary had happened
 “ to the ladies ?

“ The good woman, pleased with his solici-
 “ tude, which she thought promised some re-
 “ lief, told him plainly, that Mrs. Carlton was
 “ in the utmost distress ; that she had been ill
 “ several weeks ; that she had not been able to
 “ procure proper advice ; and added she, burst-
 “ ing into tears, she has even wanted common
 “ necessities.”

“ O my God ! exclaimed Mr. Courteney,
 “ with a deep sigh ; but miss—what is become
 “ of miss ? Alas ! sir, replied the old woman,
 “ the dear child is almost dead with fatigue and
 “ grief ; she has watched by her mother these
 “ ten nights successively, there is no persuading
 “ her to quit her for a moment. I left her in
 “ an agony of sorrow, for it is believed poor Mrs.
 “ Carlton cannot live three days.

“ Conduct me to her, cried Mr. Courteney
 “ eagerly ; I may possibly be able to comfort
 “ her ; let me see her, I conjure you, imme-
 “ diately.

“ Stay a moment, sir, said the old woman,
 “ stopping him, for he was making towards the
 “ door ; I will go up first and inform the ladies.
 “ There is no occasion for that, said Mr. Cour-
 “ teney, Mrs. Carlton knows me very well ; she
 “ will not I am sure be sorry to see me, I have
 “ something to say to her.

“ The good woman, seeing his obstinacy,
 “ permitted him to follow her up stairs ; she
 “ gently opened the chamber-door, and, ap-
 “ proaching the bed where the sick lady lay,
 “ told her there was a friend of her’s, who de-
 “ sired to see her. Mr. Courteney entered that
 “ moment, and beheld a sight which called for

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“ more fortitude than he was at that time pos-
 “ sessed of to support without tears.

“ Mrs. Carlton lay extended on her bed, sup-
 “ ported by a height of cushions to facilitate
 “ her breathing, which she seemed to do with
 “ great difficulty. Death appeared in her lan-
 “ guid countenance ; and an expression of the
 “ tender anguish of a mother for the child whom
 “ she was so soon to leave exposed to the insults
 “ of a barbarous world, mixed with the pious
 “ resignation of a christian, was impressed in
 “ every line of it.

“ Her daughter was kneeling at the bed-side,
 “ and held one of her mother’s hands, which
 “ she was bending over in an agony of grief:
 “ upon hearing what the old woman said, she
 “ raised her head ; and, directing her stream-
 “ ing eyes to the place where Mr. Courteney
 “ stood, showed him a face pale, emaciated,
 “ but lovely still ; at sight of him a faint blush
 “ overspread her cheeks. It is Mr. Courteney,
 “ my dear mamma, said she.

“ Oh ! sir, said Mrs. Carlton, perceiving
 “ him, you are very good to seek out affliction
 “ thus. I shall shortly be past all my cares ;
 “ but what will become of this poor helpless
 “ orphan ? The tears that streamed from her
 “ eyes prevented her further utterance.

“ Mr.

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“ Mr. Courteney threw himself on his knees
“ at the bed-side, and almost sobbing with the
“ violence of his emotions at this affecting lan-
“ guage, Oh ! madam, said he, What must
“ you not have suffered ? why would you not
“ accept what little assistance it was in my power
“ to offer you. I know your delicate scruples—
“ I come to beg you will give yourself a right to
“ all my future services—I have something to
“ communicate to you— But, added he, look-
“ ing at the old woman who had introduced
“ him, we are not alone.

“ Speak freely, sir, said Mrs. Carlton, this
“ good woman is my daughter’s nurse ; she
“ knows all my affairs ; I am much indebted
“ to her kindness and affection for my child.

“ What I have to say, proceeded Mr. Cour-
“ teney, relates to that dear, that lovely daugh-
“ ter : I loved her from the first moment I saw
“ her ; such innocence, such beauty, could not
“ suggest any impure desire. As soon as I knew
“ the force of my passion, which absence first
“ made me know, I fixed its purpose. Permit
“ me to offer her my hand ; I cannot be happy
“ without her.

“ What do you say, sir ? said Mrs. Carlton,
“ excessively surprised : would you marry my
“ daughter ? But after a little pause, No, pur-
“ sued

“sued she, this can never be, your father will
 “not consent to it.

“I own freely to you, madam, said Mr.
 “Courteney, that I have no hopes of gaining
 “my father’s consent; but when the affair is
 “irretrievable, he will be softened, I am sure
 “he will. Let not this scruple hinder you from
 “giving your daughter a protector. Surely, said
 “Mrs. Carlton, lifting up her eyes, the hand
 “of Providence is here; and it would be im-
 “pious to oppose its will. You have my con-
 “sent, sir, said she to Mr. Courteney; would
 “it pleased God that you had his also, whom
 “it is your duty to consult on this occasion, and
 “to obey if you can.

“Mr. Courteney assured her he would solicit
 “his father’s consent; but that he could not be
 “happy without miss Carlton, and was already
 “determined.

“That young lady had retired into another
 “room at the beginning of this discourse, in
 “perturbations which may be better imagined
 “than described. Mr. Courteney, by her mo-
 “ther’s permission, attended her: he approached
 “her with a timidity, which, the inequality of
 “their circumstances considered, may seem sur-
 “prising; but those who know the nature of a
 “sincere and violent passion, will easily account
 “for

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“for it. For fear, says an elegant writer, always accompanies love when it is great, as flames burn highest when they tremble most. He took her hand, and kissing it respectfully, told her that Mrs. Carlton had begun his felicity, by permitting him to offer himself to her acceptance as a husband, but that she only could complete it by her consent.

“Miss Carlton blushed, turned pale, and blushed again: at length she replied, that she had no other will than her mother’s. But this offer, added she, in an accent that expressed at once her surprise and gratitude, is so generous, so unexpected, so un- hoped for— The last words seemed to escape her; she blushed more than before. Mr. Courteney took in all their tender meaning: he kissed her hand again in a rapture of joy, and was beginning to make her some passionate declarations, when they heard the nurse crying out for help.

“Surprise and joy at what had so lately happened, operated so powerfully on Mrs. Carlton’s almost exhausted spirits, that she had fallen into a fainting fit. Miss Carlton eagerly flew to her assistance, Mr. Courteney followed her with an anxious concern. As soon as she recovered, he told her he would instantly re-

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“ turn to London and dispatch a physician to
 “ attend her, and would be with her again the
 “ next evening.

“ He took a tender farewell of his mistress
 “ and calling the nurse aside, gave her twenty
 “ guineas to provide whatever was wanting, and
 “ hastened back to London.

C H A P. IX.

The story continued.

“ **M**R. Courteney's first care was to send a
 “ physician to the sick lady; and that
 “ performed, he deliberated in what manner he
 “ should acquaint his father with his intention.
 “ He knew him too well to hope for his con-
 “ sent to his marriage with miss Carlton, and
 “ he had not courage enough to stand the re-
 “ proaches of a parent, whom he was predeter-
 “ mined to disobey. He chose therefore to
 “ write to him, supposing he should, when un-
 “ awed by his presence, be able to find argu-
 “ ments strong enough to make some impression
 “ on his mind, and to plead his excuse.

“ As he dreaded extremely a private inter-
 “ view with his father, he was glad to find
 “ his

" his return home, that a great deal of company
 " was expected that evening; he did not ap-
 " pear till they were all met, having purposely
 " wasted a good deal of time in dressing. The
 " earl was still ruffled with what had passed be-
 " fore between him and his son; and Mr. Cour-
 " teney observed that his looks and behaviour
 " were less kind than usual.

" As soon as he retired to his apartment, in-
 " stead of going to bed, he sat down to compose
 " a letter to his father. He began with the
 " highest expressions of grief for having by an ir-
 " resistable impulse engaged his affections with-
 " out his concurrence; he justified his choice by
 " every argument that love could suggest in fa-
 " vour of the beloved object: he implored the
 " continuance of his father's affection; and
 " promised in every future action the most per-
 " fect submission and obedience.

" This difficult task performed, he found his
 " mind much easier and composed, as if in rea-
 " lity he had obtained the pardon he had soli-
 " cited, and now resigned himself to all the
 " pleasing reveries of successful love.

" After a few hours rest, he rose under pre-
 " tence of going out to ride; and, leaving
 " orders with a servant to deliver his letter to
 " his

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" his father at his hour of dressing, he went im-
 " mediately to the Commons, procured a li-
 " cence, and flew to Chelsea; he found Mrs.
 " Carlton much worse than when he left her;
 " yet joy at seeing him again seemed to give her
 " new life and spirits. She called him to her
 " bed-side; he acquainted her with what he
 " had done; she had some scruples, but the fear
 " of leaving her daughter destitute overbalanced
 " them all.

" I am dying, said she, pressing his hand;
 " the physician you sent was too sincere to
 " flatter me. I die contented, since I leave
 " my child under your protection. Let the
 " ceremony be performed in my presence;
 " after that is over I shall have no farther
 " business with the world. Miss Carlton,
 " drowned in tears, and almost sinking under
 " the violence of her grief, was with diffi-
 " culty persuaded to give her hand to her
 " lover at so shocking a time; but her dy-
 " ing mother conjured her to give her that
 " last satisfaction.— A clergyman was in-
 " stantly provided by the faithful nurse: the
 " clerk acted as father to the weeping bride;
 " and Mr. Courteney's servant and the good
 " nurse were witnesses. — Never sure was
 " there a more melancholy wedding — the
 " bride-

" bridegroom's joy was checked by sympathy-
 " ing concern—the bride's tender sensibility lost
 " in agonising woe—the service was performed
 " with the solemn sadness of a funeral.

" As soon as it was over, Mrs. Carlton col-
 " lected all her remaining strength and spirits, to
 " pronounce a blessing on the new-wedded pair ;
 " and straining her daughter with a weak em-
 " brace, declared that she was now easy, and
 " should die in peace. Mr. Courteney made a
 " genteel present to the clergyman and the
 " clerk, and dismissed them : he took an affec-
 " tionate leave of Mrs. Carlton, who desired to
 " be left to her private devotions ; and earnestly
 " recommending his bride to the care of her
 " nurse, he went back to town with a resolution
 " to declare his marriage to his father ; his senti-
 " ments being too delicate and his notions of
 " honour too just to permit him on any consi-
 " deration of interest to conceal the engagements
 " he had entered into, and suffer the woman
 " whom he thought worthy to be his wife to
 " live under a doubtful character.

" On his return home he found his letter had
 " been delivered to the earl. His mother, be-
 " ing informed of his arrival, sent for him to her
 " dressing-room, where he found her in tears.
 " She told him that his father had been in the
 most

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“ most violent transports of anger, upon receiv-
 “ ing his letter ; and she conjured him, if he
 “ valued her peace, to proceed no farther in a
 “ design that must inevitably be his ruin.

“ Mr. Courteney sighed, and was preparing
 “ to answer her, when the earl himself entered
 “ the room : the impresson of his first fury was
 “ still visible on his countenance. As soon as
 “ he saw his son, he poured a torrent of re-
 “ proaches on him, inveighing against his
 “ meanness and ingratitude ; then suddenly, and
 “ with great vehemence, uttered the most dread-
 “ ful imprecations on him, if he followed the
 “ dictates of his despicably-placed passion, and
 “ married a beggar.

“ Oh, hold my lord ! cried Mr. Courteney,
 “ throwing himself at his feet ; curse me not
 “ for I am already married. The earl, almost
 “ mad with rage at this confession, spurned him
 “ rudely with his foot, and flung out of the
 “ room, declaring that he renounced him for
 “ ever.

“ Mr. Courteney, flung with indignation at
 “ this treatment, rose up, and uttered some
 “ words of resentment, when his attention was
 “ called off from the affront he had suffered, by
 “ the condition in which he observed his mother,
 “ who, from surprise and terror, had swooned,

“ and

“and lay motionless on the couch, where she
 “had thrown herself. Mr. Courteney, exces-
 “sively shocked at this sight, rung the bell for
 “her woman, while he applied himself to give
 “her all the assistance he was able. As soon as
 “he saw her recovering, he staid not to increase
 “her disorder by his presence, but retired to his
 “apartment; and after he had taken all the
 “money he had in his cabinet, he left that house
 “that was now become dreadful to him, and
 “went to the lodgings of a young gentleman
 “who had been his fellow-student at college,
 “and whom he had reason to believe his friend,
 “if friendship can be acquired by conferring
 “obligations.

“To this young gentleman he unloaded his
 “heart, but found not the consolation he ex-
 “pected. He expressed the utmost astonishment
 “and concern for his indiscreet marriage; and,
 “instead of offering him any advice in his per-
 “plexed situation, or consoling him, oppressed
 “as he was by the displeasure of his father, ma-
 “nifested in so contemptuous a manner, he
 “maintained that the earl’s anger was just and
 “reasonable, and exclaimed at his imprudence
 “in ruining himself for a woman.

“Before the mischief was done, remonstrances
 “might have been seasonable; but nothing
 “could

“ could be more unkind than to insist upon an
 “ error which was already committed, and could
 “ not be repaired. Mr. Courteney was at first
 “ surprised at this behaviour in a man who had
 “ always shewn so deep a sense of his kindness,
 “ and professed the most tender friendship for
 “ him : but he had still temper enough left to
 “ consider, that most people follow their own
 “ interests, and are at one time grateful for their
 “ convenience, and at another ungrateful for the
 “ same reason.

“ He left him without taking any notice of
 “ the disgust he had conceived ; and after he
 “ had hired lodgings for the reception of his
 “ wife, he hastened to Chelsea, where he ar-
 “ rived time enough to moderate the first agonies
 “ of her grief for the loss of her mother, who
 “ had expired a few moments before.

“ Having given directions concerning the fu-
 “ neral, he forced Mrs. Courteney out of that
 “ mournful house, and carried her to London,
 “ applying himself with the tenderest assiduity
 “ to alleviate the sense of her loss, all his own
 “ just causes of uneasiness being forgot, and his
 “ anxiety for the melancholy future lost in his
 “ contemplation of the happy present : so true
 “ it is that wedded-love supplies the want of
 “ every other blessing in life ; and as no condi-
 “ tion

"tion can be truly happy without it, so none
"can be absolutely miserable with it.

C H A P. X.

A farther continuation of her story.

"I N the mean time Mr. Courteney corresponded privately with his mother, whose
"gentle nature had, with little difficulty, been
"softened into a forgiveness of her son's imprudent marriage ; but all her endeavours to reconcile the earl to it had proved ineffectual.
"He continued inexorable, and peremptorily
"commanded her never to mention that undutiful son to him more, whom he reprobated
"for ever.

"The countess durst not hazard an interview
"with her son, while his father's resentment
"continued unappeased ; but she allowed him
"two hundred a year out of her pin-money,
"and upon this moderate income they lived
"with more happiness than is often to be found
"in the highest affluence."—

"And why not," interrupted miss Woodby
"here, "a cottage, with the person we love, is
"to be preferred to a palace with one to whom
"in-

"interest and not affection has joined us.
 "know I could be contented to keep sheep
 "with the man I loved. Speak truth, my dear
 "Clelia, would you not like to be a shepherd-
 "ess? O, what a delightful employment, to
 "watch a few harmless sheep! to wander thro'
 "groves and fields, or lie reclined upon the
 "flowery margin of some murmuring stream,
 "and listen to the plaintive voice of the night-
 "ingale, or the tender faithful vows of some
 "lovely and beloved shepherd!"

"What a romantic picture," said Miss
 Courteney laughing, "have you drawn! It is
 "a mighty pretty one it must be confessed, but
 "it is not at all like. I remember, when I was
 "about fourteen, I had the same notions of
 "shepherds and shepherdesses; but I was soon
 "cured. I happened to be at the house of a
 "country gentleman, who managed a large
 "farm of his own; one of the servants sup-
 "plying something about the shepherd, my heart
 "danced at the sound. My imagination re-
 "presented to me such a pretty figure as we
 "see on the stage in the dramatic pastoral en-
 "tertainment of Damon and Phillida, in a fine
 "green habit, all bedizened with ribbons, a
 "neat crook, and a garland of flowers. I
 "begged to be permitted to go into the fields to
 "see

“ see the shepherd, and eagerly enquired if there
 “ were no shepherdesses likewise ; but how was
 “ I disappointed !—The shepherd was an old man
 “ in a ragged waistcoat, and so miserably sun-
 “ burnt, that he might have been taken for a mu-
 “ latto: the shepherdess looked like a witch ; she
 “ was sitting under a hedge, mending old stock-
 “ ings, with a straw hive on her head, and a
 “ tatter’d garment on, of as many colours as
 “ there were patches in it. How diverting it
 “ would have been to have heard this ena-
 “ mour’d swain sigh out soft things to this lovely
 “ nymph !”

“ Oh ! ridiculous,” cried miss Woodby—
 “ I am sick at the very thought ; but, my dear
 “ Clelia, go on, I beseech you, with your
 “ story.”

“ I have not come to my own story yet,”
 said miss Courteney ; “ all that you have heard
 “ has been only an introduction to it ; and I
 “ have given you the history of my parents in
 “ the words, as near as I can remember, of my
 “ mother ; for she loved scribbling, and com-
 “ mitted the principal incidents of her life to
 “ paper, which for my instruction she per-
 “ mitted me to read : I say instruction, for she
 “ was a woman of fine understanding and deep
 “ thinking ; and she had interspersed through

“ her little narrative many beautiful and just reflections, and many observations and useful maxims, which her reading, which was very comprehensive, and her experience furnished her with.”

“ Proceed, my dear Clelia,” said miss Woodby, observing Henrietta paused here, “ I am impatient to hear more.” “ If you please,” said miss Courteney, “ we will drink tea first.” “ I have just two hours and a half to stay with you,” replied miss Woodby, looking at her watch; “ if I am at home by nine o’clock, which is my aunt’s hour for supper, it will do.” Henrietta then ordered tea, which was soon dispatched, and she resumed her story in this manner.

“ My father, who was very desirous of conciliating at least his elder brother’s affections, wrote to him, he being now upon his travels, and gave him an account of his marriage; but his letter, though conceived in the most tender and respectful terms, produced a cruel and supercilious answer, which not only took away all hope of his proving a mediator between him and his father, but convinced him that he had in him no longer a friend or brother.

" His affairs were in this desperate situation
 " when my mother became pregnant ; a distant
 " relation of my father's now took an interest in
 " this event, and being very rich and ambitious
 " of making a family, he declared that if the
 " child was a son, he would adopt him and make
 " him his heir. You may imagine this design
 " was received with great joy ; the old gentle-
 " man was very assiduous in his visits to my mo-
 " ther during her pregnancy, and seemed ex-
 " tremely happy in the thoughts of perpetuating
 " his name ; an ambition very common to per-
 " sons of low extraction, who, by industry and
 " thrift, have risen to great riches : for he was
 " only by marriage a relation to my father, and
 " had been too much neglected on account of
 " the meanness of his original. But all these
 " flattering expectations were destroyed by my
 " birth, which I had reason to say proved a mis-
 " fortune to my parents. The capricious old
 " man was so greatly chagrined at his disap-
 " pointment, that he transferred all his favours
 " to another cousin, who was so lucky as to
 " present him with a son to succeed to his for-
 " tune, and continue his obscure name to pos-
 " terity.

" My brother's birth happened a year after-
 " wards, and unfortunately for him a year too

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late. My father still continued to draw his whole income from the bounty of his mother, who was a constant but fruitless mediator in his behalf: her death, which happened about three years after his marriage, was an irreparable loss to him; for it was not improbable but the lenient hand of time, which weakens the force of every passion, joined to her tender solicitations, might have effected a reconciliation between his father and him; but this hope was now no more: the countess bequeathed my father all the money she had saved, which was but a very small sum; for she had always given with a liberal hand to the poor, though with so little ostentation, that it was supposed she had saved some thousands out of her pin-money, for she was less expensive than any other woman of her rank in England; but it was not till after my father's marriage, that she began to save, and then only for him.

Six hundred pounds was all that was found in her cabinet, which some months after her decease was paid to my father with every circumstance of contempt.

These repeated calamities were so far from lessening the love of my father and mother, that they seemed to redouble their tenderness; seeking

“ seeking in each other that happiness which for-
 “ tune denied them, and which they were always
 “ sure to find in their own virtue and mutual af-
 “ fection.

“ My father, who had had a very liberal edu-
 “ cation, employed the greatest part of his time
 “ in the instruction of his children: under his
 “ tuition I acquired the French and Italian lan-
 “ guages; by my mother I was taught every
 “ useful accomplishment for a young woman in
 “ my situation; nor did my father’s narrow cir-
 “ cumstances hinder him from procuring me
 “ those which were suitable to my birth. My
 “ brother had no other tutor but this excellent
 “ father, who qualified him for a university;
 “ and at fourteen years of age he was sent to that
 “ of Leyden, and I have never seen him since.

“ In the mean time the earl my grandfather,
 “ who still continued inexorable, was taken off
 “ suddenly by an apoplectick fit; and having
 “ never altered his will, which he made imme-
 “ diately after the marriage of my father, he
 “ found he was cut off with a shilling. This
 “ stroke, as it was always expected, was less
 “ sensibly felt than another which immediately
 “ followed it. That relation, to whose estate
 “ my father was to succeed, having buried his
 “ wife, married a young woman, who, in a year

“ afterwards brought him a son to inherit his fortune.

“ My father, now seeing no prospect of any provision for his children, fell into a deep melancholy : he had by the interest of some of his friends, obtained a place which brought him in between three and four hundred a year ; but out of this it was impossible to save much. The uneasiness of mind which he laboured under, corrupted his blood ; he was seized with a decay which carried him off in a few months, and deprived his wife of the best husband, his children of the best father that ever was.

“ In his last illness he had wrote to his brother, and recommended his helpless family to his compassion ; but that nobleman, whose avarice was his strongest passion, and whose resentment against his brother was kept up by the arts of his wife ; her family, though noble, being very poor, and therefore dependent upon him, took no other notice of my father’s last request, than to send my mother a bank bill for an hundred pounds ; declaring at the same time that it was all the assistance she must ever expect from him ; and with this heroick act of generosity, he silenced

“ the

“ the soft pleadings of nature, and persuaded him-
 “ self that he had done his duty.

“ My mother, being young with child when
 “ my father died, miscarried ; and by that acci-
 “ dent, together with her continual grief, she
 “ fell into a languishing illness, which threatened
 “ a short period to her days. Five hundred
 “ pounds was all that my father left : from this
 “ small sum a widow and two children were to
 “ draw their future subsistence. What a me-
 “ lancholy prospect ! However my brother, who
 “ was then about seventeen, had made such
 “ great proficiency in learning, that, notwith-
 “ standing his youth, he was recommended by
 “ the professors of the university to have the care
 “ of some English youths who studied there,
 “ which afforded him a decent subsistence.

“ My mother having placed four hundred and
 “ fifty pounds in the hands of a rich merchant,
 “ who had been a friend of my father’s, and gave
 “ her very good interest for it, she disposed of all
 “ her furniture, and with the money arising from
 “ the sale, set out with me for Bath, the waters
 “ being prescribed to her by her physician.

“ Not being able to support the expence of
 “ living in the town, she took lodgings in a plea-
 “ sant village, about three miles distance from
 “ it ; and here, feeling her distemper daily gain-
 ing

“ ing ground, she prepared for death, with a re-
 “ signation that was only interrupted by her
 “ anxiety for me.

“ It was not indeed easy to form any plan for
 “ my future subsistence, which would not sub-
 “ ject me to a situation very unfit for my birth.
 “ Had my brother been provided for, she would
 “ have made no scruple of sinking that small sum
 “ that was left, into an annuity for my life,
 “ which with economy might support me above
 “ necessity and dependence. She wrote to my
 “ brother, and desired his advice with regard to
 “ me. My brother, as if he had entered into
 “ her views, in his answer conjured her to have
 “ no solicitude about him, since, with the edu-
 “ cation he had received, he could not fail of
 “ supporting himself in the character of a gen-
 “ tleman, but to dispose of that money in any
 “ manner which might be most for my advan-
 “ tage.

“ My mother shed tears of tender satisfaction
 “ over this letter, so full of duty to her, and af-
 “ fection for me; but the more generous and
 “ disinterested her son showed himself, the less
 “ was she capable of taking a resolution, which,
 “ if any disappointment happened to him, must
 “ leave him without any resource.

“ You

“ You may be sure, my dear miss Woodby,
 “ I was not very forward to fix her purpose ; for
 “ I could not bear the thought of being the only
 “ person, in our little distressed family, to whom
 “ a subsistence was secured. While my mother
 “ was thus fluctuating, she was visited in her re-
 “ tirement by lady Manning, a widow lady of a
 “ very plentiful fortune, with whom she had been
 “ in some degree of intimacy during the life of
 “ my father.

“ This lady showed great fondness for me ;
 “ and my mother imparting to her her difficul-
 “ ties with regard to settling me, lady Manning
 “ begged her to make herself quite easy, for that
 “ she would take me under her own care.

“ Miss Courteney, said she, will do me ho-
 “ nour by accepting my house for an asylum,
 “ and I and my daughter will think ourselves
 “ happy in such an agreeable companion. My
 “ mother was extremely pleased with this offer ;
 “ and lady Manning pressed me to go with her to
 “ London, for which place she was to set out in
 “ a few days.

“ I was so much shocked at the proposal of
 “ leaving my mother in the dangerous condition
 “ she was judged to be, that I did not receive
 “ lady Manning’s offer with that sense of her in-
 “ tended kindness which she doubtless expected ;

“ and when my mother, wholly governed by
 “ the consideration of my interest, urged me
 “ to go with lady Manning, I burst into a vio-
 “ lent passion of tears, vehemently protesting
 “ that I would never leave her ; and lamenting
 “ her causeless distrust of my affection in sup-
 “ posing that I could be prevailed upon, by any
 “ prospect of advantage to myself, to separate
 “ from her.

“ I observed lady Manning redened at these
 “ words, which she understood as a reproach
 “ for her making so improper a proposal, and
 “ which I really desired she should : for I was
 “ highly disgusted with her want of delicacy, in
 “ desiring me to leave my mother, and her be-
 “ lieving it possible that I could consent.

“ I saw pleasure in my mother’s eyes at this
 “ artless expression of my tenderness for her ;
 “ but at the same time I thought I could per-
 “ ceive by the turn of her countenance that she
 “ was apprehensive I had disobliged lady Man-
 “ ning : therefore I endeavoured to remove her
 “ fears by the strongest assurances of gratitude to
 “ that lady. She received those assurances with
 “ a little superciliousness at first, but that pre-
 “ sently wore off ; and at parting she renewed her
 “ professions of friendship to my mother, and
 “ promises of a parent’s care of me.

“ She

“ She left Bath three days afterwards, so that
 “ we did not see her again, which made my mo-
 “ ther a little uneasy ; but we had soon a very
 “ kind letter from her, in which she repeated all
 “ her former offers, and expressed great tender-
 “ nefs for me.

“ At her return from London, she passed
 “ through Bath in her way to her country-seat ;
 “ and, finding my mother much worse, she re-
 “ doubled her professions of affection for me, and
 “ was so lavish in her promises, that she left her
 “ quite easy on my account. Indeed, notwith-
 “ standing what I have suffered from lady Man-
 “ ning, I shall ever think myself obliged to her
 “ for contributing so greatly towards that compo-
 “ sure of mind which my mother felt, from the
 “ time that she thought me secure of an asylum,
 “ till it would suit with my brother’s circum-
 “ stances to take me under his own care.

“ I will not, my dear miss Woodby, enlarge
 “ upon the last three months of my mother’s life,
 “ which was spent in a constant preparation for
 “ her end. Indeed the innocence of her manners,
 “ and the unfeigned piety that shone through
 “ her conduct, made her whole life one conti-
 “ nued preparation for that awful moment, so
 “ dreadful to the wicked ; so full of peace, con-
 “ fidence, and holy joy to the good. In fine, I

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“lost this excellent mother, and my bleeding
“heart still feels her loss.”

The tears, which at this tender remembrance
ran from miss Courteney’s eyes, made a pathetic
pause in her relation ; but recovering her-
self, she proceeded, as will be found in the fol-
lowing Book.

HENRIETTA.

BOOK THE SECOND.

CHAP. I.

In which Henrietta enters upon her own story, and shews, that to confer benefits, is not always a proof of benevolence.

“THE worthy merchant,” resumed miss Courteney, “whom I mentioned to you, had the goodness to come to Bath, upon the news of my mother’s extreme danger. He arrived time enough to receive her last intreaties, that he would continue his friendship to me. I was then entered into my twentieth year, and chose him for my guardian; he would have taken me with him to his house, but my promise being engaged to lady Manning, I was obliged to decline his obliging offer.

“I

“ I wrote her an account of my mother’s death;
 “ Mr. Bale, so was the merchant called, would
 “ not return to town till he saw me safely disposed
 “ of.

“ About three days after I had wrote to lady
 “ Manning, I received a letter from her, which
 “ was brought by one of her servants; in which,
 “ after the usual compliments of condolence, she
 “ desired I would set out immediately with the
 “ person whom she had sent to attend me. My
 “ guardian, for so I used now to call Mr. Bale,
 “ coming in, I told him I must prepare to be gone
 “ immediately, and gave him lady Manning’s
 “ letter to read.

“ How are you to go, miss? said he, after he
 “ had looked over the letter. As I never doubted
 “ but lady Manning had sent her post-chaise or
 “ chariot for me, I told him I supposed there
 “ was a carriage come with the messenger.

“ O yes, replied Mr. Bale, there is a very
 “ good pillion, and you are to ride behind the
 “ footman, I took notice of the equipage as I
 “ came in, but I shall not permit you to per-
 “ form a journey of thirty miles in that manner:
 “ therefore, miss, I would have you send a letter
 “ to the lady by her messenger, and inform her
 “ that your guardian will convey you safe to her
 “ seat.

“ I was as much pleased with this kind atten-
 “ tion in Mr. Bale, as I was shocked and sur-
 “ prised at the ungentle manner in which lady
 “ Manning had sent for me : however I con-
 “ cealed my thoughts of it, and wrote such a
 “ letter as my guardian desired me. The next
 “ morning at eight o’clock, a post-chaise was
 “ ready at the door, and, Mr. Bale attending ;
 “ all my cloaths had been packed up the night
 “ before, and we set out immediately.

“ Lady Manning received us very politely, and
 “ detained Mr. Bale to dinner. I thought I
 “ could observe something forced in the respect
 “ she seemed to pay me ; and I was particularly
 “ disgusted with her using the words *Your guar-*
 “ *dian* every moment, as if in derision of the title
 “ I had to one.

“ When Mr. Bale went away, he took an
 “ opportunity to speak to me apart, and made
 “ me promise him, if I should have any reason
 “ to be displeased with my situation, that I would
 “ write to him plainly, and he would come him-
 “ self and fetch me away. This tender solici-
 “ tude in the good old man affected me very
 “ sensibly, and I could not help shedding tears
 “ when I saw him drive away.

“ Lady Manning was extremely inquisitive
 “ about his connexion with me, and asked me a
 “ great

“ great many questions. I am very glad, said
 “ she, your affairs are in the hands of so wise a
 “ man ; for surely he who can raise a large estate
 “ out of nothing, as has been the case with Mr.
 “ Bale, must needs be a very wise man, and I
 “ don’t doubt but he will manage your fortune
 “ to the best advantage.

“ I was greatly displeased with the first part of
 “ this speech, and particularly with the manner
 “ in which the word Fortune was drauled out.

“ The poor trifle I have, madam, replied I,
 “ does not deserve to be termed a fortune.

“ I assure you, said she, it was very kind in a
 “ man of Mr. Bale’s substance to trouble himself
 “ with such inconsiderable matters ; and it is a
 “ great thing for you to be permitted to call such
 “ a man guardian.

“ Very true, madam, replied I, with some
 “ warmth ; and I believe Mr. Bale thinks it no
 “ discredit to be called so by a child of Mr. Cour-
 “ teney’s, whatever her fortune may be.

“ I observed lady Manning to reden at this
 “ reply, which at that time surprised me, and I
 “ could not conceive the reason of it ; but I
 “ soon found that it was a mortal crime in her
 “ eyes to pretend to derive any advantage from
 “ birth. There was nothing which she seemed
 “ to hold in greater contempt than family-pride,

“ and

and indeed, when unseasonably exerted, it is contemptible ; but it was plain that lady Manning did not think meanly of the fortuitous advantage of being well-born, because she envied those who possessed that advantage ; and tho' the daughter of a soap-boiler herself, she was extremely fond of being thought to have ancestors ; and it was to gratify her pride, that her husband, who was a rich citizen, by trade a brewer, got himself knighted, that, together with a very large jointure, he might leave his wife the title of lady.

"Surely," interrupted miss Woodby, "this woman had no good intentions when she invited you to her house ; it is impossible that such low creatures can have any notion of friendship or generosity."

"You have guessed truly," replied miss Courteney ; "it was to gratify her pride, to have the daughter of a gentleman subjected to her caprice, and dependent on her bounty, that made her so solicitous of having me with her ; but although I did not make these reflections immediately, yet I was so disgusted by this first conversation, that I could not promise myself any great happiness in such society.

"Her daughter was now introduced to me, a tall awkward thing about seventeen : she was
"an

“ an heiress ; and being taught to believe that
“ riches give birth, beauty, wit, and every desirable
“ quality, she held every one in contempt
“ who was not possessed of this advantage, and
“ because she had it herself, she supposed she had
“ all the others.

“ Whatever documents were given her, they
“ were always introduced with—Consider, miss,
“ what a fortune you are— a young lady of your
“ fortune.— How was it possible for a girl thus
“ tutored, not to derive insolence from the consideration
“ of her fortune ?

“ The governess, who had the care of this
“ young lady, was not very likely to enlarge her
“ notions— Her only recommendation for such
“ a trust was, that she could jabber corrupted
“ French without either sense or grammar, and
“ miss was taught to parler françoise in a broad
“ provincial dialect ; for this governess had never
“ seen Paris, and perhaps had never been out of
“ the little village where she was born and bred,
“ and conversed only with peasants, till she came
“ to England to teach language and fine breeding
“ to a great heiress. It was very natural
“ for lady Manning to make such a choice, who
“ doubtless thought it a great distinction to have
“ a foreigner for governess to her daughter.”

“ Nay,

“Nay, my dear,” interrupted miss Woodby,
 “lady Manning in this particular does not differ
 “from many persons of the first quality, who
 “commit the education of their daughters to
 “low vulgar creatures, merely because they are
 “French ; creatures that in Paris, or in any of
 “the chief cities in the provinces, would not
 “be thought qualified for a chamber-maid to a
 “woman of any fashion, yet when driven into
 “England on account of their religion, as they
 “all pretend, though perhaps it is for want of
 “bread in their own country, derive such dis-
 “tinction from their flimsy sacks, their pow-
 “dered hair, and their speaking French, that
 “they are thought the fittest persons in the
 “world to form the manners of young girls of
 “quality. How absurd should we think it
 “in a French woman of quality to entertain
 “an awkward Yorkshire girl with a coarse
 “clownish accent, as English governess to her
 “daughter, to teach her the language, and cor-
 “rect her pronunciation ? and yet not one in
 “twenty of the Mademoiselles in the houses of
 “our nobility and our French boarding-schools,
 “are better qualified for such an office.—But I
 “beg pardon, my dear, for interrupting you so
 “long : I long to hear what sort of a life you
 “lived in this rich despicable family.”

“Truly,

“ Truly,” said miss Courteney, “ it was not
 “ very agreeable, when lady Manning and I were
 “ alone, she used to entertain me with an ac-
 “ count of her forefathers ; she reckoned up
 “ among them half a dozen sheriffs, three
 “ lord-mayors, and a long train of aldermen.
 “ She lamented the death of her husband most
 “ pathetically ; for if he had lived two years
 “ longer, he would have been elected lord-
 “ mayor, and she would have lived in the Man-
 “ sion-house, and been queen of the city—
 “ Her own words.

“ When we were at table and the servants
 “ attending, she used to turn the discourse upon
 “ the misfortunes of my father, lament the sad
 “ condition to which my mother and I were re-
 “ duced by his death, express great anxiety
 “ about my brother, and enter into a minute
 “ discussion of our affairs.

“ When there was company present, she
 “ would take notice that I was melancholy,
 “ and tell me that I must not take misfortunes
 “ to heart, and then sigh as if she was extremely
 “ affected with them herself ; by which she
 “ recommended me to her visitors as an object
 “ of compassion, and never failed by that means
 “ to produce some instance of neglect towards
 “ me ;

“ me ; so powerfully did that consideration operate upon most minds.

“ She would sharply reprehend her daughter for any supposed want of civility to me, and pass over in silence any real one ; telling her that if miss Courteney had not a fortune, yet she was a gentlewoman as well as herself, and that no body should be despised for being poor.

“ Such were the continued mortifications that I was obliged to endure from this generous benefactress : yet I ought not to call them mortifications, because they only excited my contempt ; about that time I received a letter from my brother, in which he informed me that he was going to travel with a young English nobleman, whose governor had died suddenly at Leyden, and whom he was appointed to succeed upon a very advantageous footing, on account of his birth, he desired me to draw upon him for what money I had occasion for.

“ I received these insults with the more indifference, as I knew I could put an end to them when I pleased, by quitting lady Manning’s house, which I could now do without any inconvenience to myself ; and foreseeing that this indelicacy in her treatment of me, must necessarily end in something too coarse
“ for

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“ for me to dissemble my resentment, I was
 “ willing to stay till she shewed herself in her
 “ true colours, which would be my justification
 “ whenever I quitted her.

C H A P. II.

Wherein family-pride awakens those natural affections which family-pride had suppressed.

“ I T was not long before I had this opportunity. She desired me one day to walk with
 “ her in the garden, having something to communicate to me greatly to my advantage; and,
 “ after a profound silence of about ten minutes,
 “ she looked archly at me, and asked me if I
 “ could guess what she had been doing for me?
 “ Indeed I cannot, Madam, replied I. Well
 “ then I will tell you, said she, nothing less, I
 “ assure you, than providing you a husband.
 “ Indeed! said I, laughing, and pray, madam,
 “ who is this intended husband? Come, come,
 “ said she gravely, before I tell you who he is,
 “ you must promise me to make no silly objections; such as age, not being a fine gentleman,
 “ and the like. The person I have in my eye
 “ for you is a sober staid man, and blessed with
 “ means to support you handsomely, without
 “ de-

depending upon any body. That indeed is something, replied I; but who is this person, Madam? I have a good mind, said she, to tantalize you a little, by keeping you in suspense;—but in short the person I mean is honest Mr. Vellum.

“Although I expected some very absurd and impertinent proposal, yet my imagination had never reached any thing so ridiculous as this Mr. Vellum; for I had had his history from himself some time before. He had been taken by her father out of a parish-school, because he understood writing and accounts, to keep his books for him. Upon his young mistress’s marriage, he was advanced to be a clerk in her husband’s office; and here, having scraped up a little money, he made some successful ventures in trade, and had acquired about two thousand pounds. After Sir John’s death, my lady made him her steward, with a salary of fifty pounds a-year; and he was in this honourable and lucrative post, when she proposed him as a husband for me.

“My surprise was succeeded by a strong inclination to laugh, which, indeed, I took no pains to suppress; and pray madam, said I, has this grave personage expressed any good liking to me?

I

“I

“ I hope you are not jesting, said she.—Why,
 “ did you expect me to be serious, replied I,
 “ upon such a proposal ?

“ Such a proposal miss ! repeated lady Man-
 “ ning colouring : if my daughter was in your
 “ circumstances, I should not be sorry such a
 “ proposal was made to her. Very likely madam,
 “ returned I, and it might be more proper than
 “ to Mr. Courteney’s daughter, and the niece
 “ of the earl of ——

“ This may look like vanity, my dear miss
 “ Woodby ; but I confess I was excessively
 “ shocked at her levelling me with her daugh-
 “ ter, when riches were out of the question ;
 “ for I was contented to allow her all the supe-
 “ riority she could derive from them. Lady
 “ Manning made me a smarter answer, and de-
 “ livered with more calmness than I expected
 “ from her.

“ If the earl of ——, said she, behaved more
 “ like an uncle to you, miss, it would be oftener
 “ remembered that you are his niece ; but, as it
 “ is, I do not know whether it may not be an
 “ advantage to you, to have it forgot ; for there
 “ are very few gentlemen of small fortunes who
 “ would choose an indigent woman of quality
 “ for a wife.

“ I hope however, madam, said I, that none
 “ but a gentleman will presume to offer himself
 “ to me ; and I shall take care not to justify my
 “ uncle’s neglect, by encouraging any improper
 “ address.—You are very much in the right,
 “ miss, said lady Manning, one unfortunate
 “ marriage in a family is enough.

“ ’Tis well, madam, replied I, bursting into
 “ tears, you mean my father’s, no doubt ; but it
 “ was no otherwise unfortunate than that it had
 “ not the sanction of my grand-father’s consent ;
 “ my mother’s excellencies justified his choice ;
 “ and she might have had a fortune too, though
 “ not equal to what he might have expected,
 “ if it had not been trusted in the hands of a vil-
 “ lain, who broke to leave his own children
 “ fortunes, as many other villains have done.

“ This last hint threw lady Manning into
 “ some confusion ; for it was suspected that her
 “ grand-father, who was a corn-factor, had
 “ done the like : and, whether it was that she
 “ was afraid of my speaking still plainer, or that
 “ she was really concerned for having given me
 “ such just reason to complain of her, she thought
 “ fit to beg my pardon for what was past, and
 “ assured me, that whatever I might think of
 “ her, she was unalterably my friend.

“ In my first emotions of resentment, I had
 “ resolved to write to Mr. Bale, and acquaint
 “ him with the treatment I had met with, which
 “ I knew would bring him immediately to my
 “ relief: but I considered that my leaving lady
 “ Manning in disgust might have disagreeable
 “ consequences; for she would not fail to repre-
 “ sent every thing in such a manner as to make
 “ me appear in the wrong, and the world seldom
 “ espouses the part of the oppressed, because
 “ they who oppress have that on their side
 “ which is sure to exculpate them, and that is
 “ riches: besides, the summer was now almost
 “ past, and she talked of going soon to London,
 “ where I could take an opportunity of leaving
 “ her without any noise, and of putting myself
 “ immediately under my guardian’s protection;
 “ but I was delivered from this disagreeable si-
 “ tuation sooner than I expected, and by means
 “ which I had then no reason to hope for.

“ Lady Manning was desirous of spending a
 “ few weeks at Bath before she returned to
 “ London. A lady happened to be there at
 “ that time, who, I afterwards learned, was my
 “ great aunt by my father’s side, and had fol-
 “ lowed the example of every branch of his fa-
 “ mily, in taking no notice of him after his mar-
 “ riage.

“ This

“ This lady, lady Manning became acquainted with ; and not knowing the relation
 “ in which she stood to me, she began one day
 “ to exclaim against the pride and folly of people
 “ in low circumstances, who expect to be considered on account of their birth, producing
 “ me as an instance, and relating how I had refused an honest man whom she had proposed
 “ to me for a husband, because he was not a
 “ gentleman, repeating my own words with a
 “ sneer ; and therefore—*Not a proper match for*
 “ *Mr. Courteney's daughter.*

“ This being the first time she had named
 “ me, lady Meadows (for it was her) cried out
 “ in some astonishment, what, madam, is that
 “ pretty young lady (so she was pleased to say)
 “ that I saw with you once in the rooms, Mr.
 “ Courteney's daughter ?

“ Lady Manning answering in the affirmative
 “ —good heaven ! said lady Meadows, and have
 “ I lived to hear one of my family spoken of
 “ with such contempt ?

“ One of your family, madam ! interrupted
 “ lady Manning, surprised.

“ Yes, said lady Meadows, one of my family,
 “ who has done you too much honour to accept
 “ of an obligation from you ; how could you
 “ presume to propose your scoundrel steward for

“ husband to my cousin ? but I will take her out
 “ of your hands immediately ; you shall be paid
 “ for her board ; my nephew’s daughter shall
 “ not lie under an obligation to any upstart cit.

“ It is not to be doubted that lady Manning
 “ replied with great bitterness ; but lady Meadows,
 “ from whom I afterwards had these particulars,
 “ was in too much emotion to listen to her. She immediately
 “ quitted the walk, for they were on the Parade ; and getting into
 “ her chariot, told lady Manning, that she was going to her lodgings to fetch me away.

“ Thus, my dear miss Woodby, did I recover a relation, a friend, a benefactress, in a woman, who for many years, had had no intercourse with my father, and disclaimed him ; as the rest of his relations had done, on account of his marriage : she whose resentment could not be softened by time ; whose compassion could not be awakened by distress ; she who had silenced the pleadings of nature, yet listened to the voice of pride ; and from a sense of the affront that had been offered her family, in the husband proposed to me, she did all that a better motive could have suggested her to do.

“ You may imagine I was greatly surprised,
 “ when a servant informed me, that lady Meadows

“dows was at the door in her chariot, and de-
 “sired I would come to her. I had often heard
 “my father mention this aunt of his, from
 “whom, before his marriage, he had great ex-
 “pectations. I went down stairs in much con-
 “fusion of mind, not knowing what this sum-
 “mons could mean, yet presaging some good ;
 “and as soon as I appeared, lady Meadows let
 “down the glass, and desired me to come into
 “the chariot. Her footman instantly opening
 “the door, I got in, and placed myself by her,
 “expecting when she would speak, and anx-
 “iously longing for an explanation.

“Lady Meadows gazed at me in silence, du-
 “ring some moments ; then taking my hand,
 “My dear, said she in a tender accent, you are
 “very like your father. Poor Ned ! added she
 “with some emotion, he was not kindly used.
 “—The tears streamed from my eyes at this
 “mention of my father. I observed lady Mea-
 “dows was greatly affected. Oh nature ! thought
 “I, why were thy tender feelings suppressed so
 “long ? Don’t weep my dear, said she, I will
 “be both father and mother to you.

“Had I been in another place, I should have
 “thrown myself at her feet, to express my grati-
 “tude for this affectionate promise. I could
 “not speak at that moment ; I took her hand,
 “kissed

“kissed it, and wet it with my tears. She kindly
 “wiped my eyes with her own handkerchief;
 “then looking again in my face, as if with plea-
 “sure, you are like your mother too, I suppose,
 “said she: I never saw her, but I have heard
 “that she was very handsome.

“This obliging manner of mentioning my
 “mother, which I so little expected from
 “her, quite subdued me. My dear, said she,
 “what is past cannot be helped; you are
 “my daughter now; you shall be no longer
 “obliged to lady Manning. — That woman,
 “pursued she, rising in her temper as she spoke,
 “has herself told me the insolence of her treat-
 “ment of you; she then gave me an account of
 “what had passed upon the Parade, as I have
 “already related to you.

“Lady Manning thought to have injured me
 “in your opinion, said I, and she has made me
 “happy, by awakening your tenderness for me:
 “I now forgive her for all her insults.

“But I never will forgive her, interrupted
 “lady Meadows. — As soon as we come to my
 “lodgings, you shall send for your cloaths, and
 “never more enter her doors.

“I was very unwilling to part with lady Man-
 “ning in this manner, and pressed my aunt to
 “allow me to go and take leave of her civilly;

“but

“but she positively refused, and I found she
 “could not endure the least contradiction,
 “which is indeed one of her foibles. I therefore
 “contented myself with writing to her, and ac-
 “quainted her with lady Meadows’s resolution
 “in my favour; I made the best apology I
 “could for leaving her so suddenly, and ex-
 “pressed some concern at the misunderstanding
 “ing there was between lady Meadows and her,
 “which made it impossible for me to wait on
 “her.

“Politeness, my dear, is sometimes a great
 “tax upon sincerity. Lady Manning had cer-
 “tainly treated me very ill, and in strict justice
 “I was not obliged to shew any respect to a
 “woman who had violated all the laws of hos-
 “pitality with regard to me; but custom de-
 “cides arbitrarily in these cases; and persons in
 “a certain condition of life, make a science of
 “hating one another with all the good breeding
 “and complaisance imaginable.

“Lady Manning, according to this rule, re-
 “turned a civil answer to my letter, wished me
 “all happiness, and wherever she went, let loose
 “all the asperity of her tongue against me.
 “One calumny propagated by her hurt me more
 “than all the rest: she confidently reported that
 “I had sacrificed my conscience to my interest;

“ and that upon my aunt’s promising to settle
 “ her whole fortune upon me at her death, I
 “ had turned Roman catholick : for lady Meadows
 “ dows had been perverted to that religion by
 “ her husband, and, like all profelytes, was extremely
 “ bigotted to her new principles.

“ I thought it became me to discountenance
 “ this report as much as possible ; therefore I
 “ was more regular than ever in my attendance
 “ at church : and although my aunt, after we
 “ came to London, would often have engaged
 “ me to go to mass with her, intending no
 “ doubt to work me to her purpose by degrees ;
 “ yet I constantly and steddily refused to gratify
 “ her in this particular, though in every other
 “ I studied to oblige her as much as possible.
 “ She would often engage me in arguments
 “ upon the subject of religion, which I generally
 “ strove to evade ; and when I found that
 “ would not do, I defended myself with great
 “ courage, and with so much success, that she
 “ would tell me with an air, half smiling, half
 “ angry, that I was too hard for her, and that
 “ she would consign me over to her chaplain.

“ This chaplain, whose name is Danvers, is
 “ a priest of the order of the Jesuits : he had
 “ been recommended to lady Meadows by her

“ late

“late husband, whose memory she adored; and
 “this powerful interest, joined to the jesuit’s in-
 “fluencing manners, acquired him so great
 “credit with lady Meadows, that she governed
 “herself wholly by his advice; and that the
 “great work of her salvation might be per-
 “fected, and her every word and action be
 “under his direction, he lived in the house
 “with her, where he ruled in a most arbitrary
 “manner; his absolute empire over the con-
 “science of my lady, rendering his dominion
 “over all that had any dependence on her as
 “uncontrolled as he could desire.”

Here Henrietta stopped, observing her friend
 to look at her watch, which produced an ex-
 clamation that the reader will find in the fol-
 lowing chapter.

C H A P. III.

*Which introduces a jesuit to the acquaintance
of the reader.*

“O H! my dear,” cried miss Woodby, “I
“ am in despair to find it is so late, I must
“ leave you now; but I am so impatient to hear
“ the rest of your story, that if you will give
“ me leave, I will breakfast with you to-morrow,
“ and as soon as my eager curiosity is satisfied,
“ we will go together to Mrs. Egret’s.”

She then desired a chair might be sent for;
“ and in the mean time, said she, we will step
“ into the shop, I will make a little purchase on
“ purpose to see your landlady, whom you seem
“ to dislike so much.”

“ Indeed I do not like her,” replied Henrietta, “ and yet she is mighty civil.” “ Well,” said miss Woodby, tripping down stairs, “ I’ll give you my opinion of her when I have studied her a little.”

Miss Courteney was following her into the shop, when perceiving the young gentleman, who was there the day before, in discourse with Mrs. Eccles, she pulled miss Woodby by the sleeve,

sleeve, whispering, "Don't go in now, there is
 "somebody with her." "Indeed, but I will,"
 replied miss Woodby, who saw the glimpse of
 a laced coat, for which she had always a violent
 passion, "and so shall you likewise."

Saying this, she pulled miss Courteney in,
 and, swimming up to Mrs. Eccles, bid her with
 a lively air show her some ribbons and blond
 laces.

The young gentleman, as soon as the ladies
 appeared, made them a profound bow; and,
 fixing his eyes on Henrietta's face, seemed to
 contemplate it with astonishment and delight.

Mean time miss Woodby was playing over a
 thousand fantastick airs, and uttering as many
 pretty absurdities, which she had heard admired
 coming from the mouths of beauties, without
 reflecting that she herself was no beauty—Mrs.
 Eccles perceived her foible immediately, and
 took occasion, when she was showing her some
 new-fashioned caps, to tell her, that such a one
 would suit the air of her face; that this coloured
 ribbon was most proper to shew the lustre of her
 eyes; observed that she had wonderful fine hair,
 and begged to know who cut it.

Henrietta, a little in pain for her friend, to
 whom personal compliments were by no means
 proper, endeavoured to relieve the confusion

she supposed she was under, by diverting her attention to something else, and asked her opinion of some Dresden work that was lying before them. But miss Woodby had no leisure to answer her; for the gentleman, conceiving that it was easier to introduce some conversation to her than to miss Courteney, whose mingled modesty and dignity struck him with awe, addressed a trifling question to miss Woodby, which she answered with such an affected sprightliness, as encouraged him to talk to her with the familiarity of an old acquaintance.

Miss Woodby was excessively delighted with his address to her, and played off all the artillery of eyes, air, and wit upon him.—Happy was it for the young gentleman, who courageously bore all her attacks, that this fire was given from two little grey eyes, over which her forehead hung like a precipice; and that this form, which was thrown into a thousand different attitudes to strike him, was so distorted by nature as to leave little more for affectation to do.

The chair had been waiting half an hour without miss Woodby's perceiving it, when Henrietta, who was not at all pleased with the figure her friend made, told her, smiling, "that she would not let her stay any longer,"
"for

“for fear she should by that means be disappointed of her company at breakfast the next day.”

“I vow, my dear, you are in the right,” cried miss Woodby, “to send me away; for my aunt is waiting supper for me—I am a giddy creature.”—She then desired Mrs. Eccles to put up the things she had bought; for, in the gaiety of her heart, she had bought a great many. Mrs. Eccles obeyed, telling her she hoped she should have the pleasure of serving so agreeable a lady again.

The gentleman would hand her into her chair, which miss Woodby accepted with a very gallant air, after she had assured miss Courteney aloud, that she would be with her in the morning, and told her in a whisper that her landlady was a very pretty behaved woman.

Henrietta went up to her chamber directly, to the great disappointment of the young gentleman, who, finding there was no probability of seeing her again that night, went away disburthened of a heart which he had left with the charming stranger.

She was now summoned to supper by Mrs. Eccles, who was full of praises of the young lady her visiter. “This has been a lucky day, to me, said she, for I have let my first floor,
“at

110 H E N R I E T T A.

“at a very good price, considering the season
 “of the year.” I am glad of it,” said the
 young lady. “That is very obliging of you,
 “my dear miss,” said Mrs. Eccles, “and you
 “may still have the use of the dining-room
 “when you have company; for my lord will be
 “seldom at home in the day, these lodgings are
 “only to sleep in. But how do you like him?
 “Is he not a mighty agreeable man? Dear soul!
 “not a bit of pride in him——”

“Do you mean the gentleman I saw in the
 “shop?” said miss Courteney. “Yes,” re-
 turned Mrs. Eccles, “he is a lord, I assure
 “you.” “Well,” said miss Courteney, “I
 “am glad you are not to lose one lodger with-
 “out getting another, for I must leave you to-
 “morrow.” “How!” replied Mrs. Eccles,
 with an altered countenance, “I hope you
 “are only in jest.” “Upon my word I am in
 “earnest,” said miss Courteney. “I am sorry
 “for it, madam,” resumed she, “but this is
 “very short notice.”

Henrietta was a little surprised at the peevish-
 ness with which she spoke these last words, so dif-
 ferent from her usual complaisance: but she
 would not seem to take notice of it, and only
 told her, that it was not her design to stay more
 than a few days at this end of the town, having
 affairs

affairs to transact in the city, which would oblige her for her own convenience to take lodgings there.

Mrs. Eccles appeared satisfied with this answer, though a cloud hung upon her brow during the whole time they were at supper, which miss Courteney shortened as much as possible, and retired to her chamber, with new prejudices against her landlady, that made her rejoice in the prospect of getting away the next day.

Miss Woodby came according to her promise to breakfast, in a world of spirits, and had scarce taken a seat, when she asked after the charming fellow who entertained her so agreeably in the shop.

Henrietta told her, she saw no more of him ;
 "for the moment you was gone, said she, I
 "went up stairs ; but really, my dear, I wonder
 "you seemed so pleased with his conversation,
 "methought it was very silly and trifling."

"Oh!" exclaimed miss Woodby, "there is
 "an inexpressible charm in the trifling chat of
 "a pretty sensible fellow, when we know he
 "submits to it only to please us women."

Truly," said miss Courteney, "your sex is
 not obliged to you for that compliment. Must
 a man then talk nonsense to be acceptable to

"us.

“us.” “Lord, how grave you are! my dear,” said miss Woodby—“why don’t you know that I am the veriest coquet in nature, and take an infinite pleasure in making a wise man look and talk like a fool.”

“A coquet, my dear!” interrupted Henrietta, surprised, “no, surely.” “Indeed but I am,” replied miss Woodby; “and I verily think I should not be in the least concerned to see a hundred men dying of love for me.” “Indeed!” said miss Courteney. “Yes, indeed,” repeated the other; “but why that stare of astonishment? are these notions so new to you?” “Why, no—” hesitated miss Courteney (whose astonishment arose from the contemplation of the figure which uttered all this extravagance) “I have somewhere met in my course of reading with such fantastical notions, but I cannot say that I ever thought I should hear them avowed by a young lady of your good sense.” “Oh! your servant for that compliment,” returned miss Woodby, bowing; “but on the article of vanity we are all fools.—But come, my dear, make your tea and then resume your story; for I die with impatience to hear it.”

“I wish you would excuse me,” said Henrietta, “till I am got to Mrs. Egret’s, for I shall

“no

“not be easy till I am out of this house.”
 “Why have you such a dislike to this house?”
 said miss Woodby, “I protest I think your
 “landlady a mighty civil, obliging woman.”
 “Well, I don’t like her,” replied Henrietta,
 “she has let her first floor all on a sudden to
 “the gentleman we saw in the shop.” “And
 “how does that affect you?” interrupted miss
 Woodby.

Henrietta blushed at this question; she was
 not willing to own that she thought there was
 some design in his coming, and expected her
 friend would have made that inference herself;
 but finding she did not, she endeavoured to di-
 vert her attention from the hint she had dropped,
 by saying she had set her heart upon going to
 Mrs. Egret’s, and had told Mrs. Eccles that she
 was to leave her to-day.

“That was very imprudently done of you,”
 said miss Woodby, “before you knew whether
 “Mrs. Egret could accommodate you with
 “lodgings; but own the truth now,” pursued
 she, “did you not put yourself into a flutter
 upon hearing the gentleman had taken lodg-
 ings here?”

“Why, I cannot help saying I was startled
 at it,” replied Henrietta, “and the more
 when I heard he was a man of quality; for
 “surely

“surely these lodgings are much too mean for a
“person of that rank.”

“Is he a man of quality?” exclaimed miss
Woodby— “Oh! the dear creature—I pro-
“test I am quite in love with him now; I doat
“on a man of quality— And pray why should
“his coming fright you away.—Ah! my dear,”
said she, smiling archly, “had I not reason
“for saying a moment ago, that on the article
“of vanity we are all fools? Now are you
“ready to imagine here is a plot between this
“young nobleman and Mrs. Eccles against your
“fair self. Poor lady,” pursued she, laughing,
“this presumptuous knight will certainly carry
“you away.”

“You are in a gay humour to-day,” said
miss Courteney, blushing, “but raillery a-part,
“it imports me greatly not to be known: this
“lord, as Mrs. Eccles says he is, will no doubt
“have a great many persons coming after him
“I may be seen and discovered, and, if you
“knew what I have to dread in that case, I am
“sure you would think it reasonable for me to
“be anxious to get out of this house.

“You will be in more danger of a discovery
“at Mrs. Egret’s,” said miss Woodby; “her
“house is much larger than this, and she
“very seldom without people of fashion in it.”
“But

“But I can keep in my chamber,” said Henrietta. “And what hinders you from doing so here,” said miss Woodby—“Ah! it is as I suspected; you are certainly apprehensive of being conveyed to some island in an immense lake.”

“But my dear miss Woodby,” said Henrietta, laughing, “why, have you changed your mind about my going to Mrs. Egret’s?” “I have not changed my mind,” replied miss Woodby; “I am ready to do what I promised, but it is my opinion that if Mrs. Egret cannot furnish you with a lodging, you will be very safe here, and I will be with you as often as I can.” “Ah, my dear,” said miss Courteney, mimicking the tone she had used to her; “but come write a line to Mrs. Egret to know if she has a single room to spare, and I shall be satisfied.”

Miss Woodby immediately complied with her request, and a porter was dispatched to St. James’s-street, who soon returned with a billet from Mrs. Egret to miss Woodby, expressing her concern that she could not accommodate her friend.

“Well,” said Henrietta, when she heard this, “I find I must be contented to stay here a few days longer; but remember I claim your promise.”

“mise to be with me as often as you can.”
 “That you may depend upon,” said miss
 Woodby; “and now I claim your’s to finish
 “your history, I am impatient to hear how you
 “came off with this doughty chaplain.”

C H A P. IV.

*In which our heroine engages herself in a very
 unequal contest.*

“**I** Must confess,” said miss Courteney, re-
 suming her narrative, “that I had no in-
 “clination to engage in a religious dispute with
 “a man whose learning and abilities gave him
 “so many advantages over me; therefore when-
 “ever he gave the conversation that turn, I ge-
 “nerally took refuge in silence, not being will-
 “ing to hurt a cause I had so much at heart, by
 “defending it weakly.

“However I was often drawn in to answer
 “by some apparent absurdity advanced by him,
 “which it seemed mighty easy to refute. On
 “these occasions Mr. Danvers would listen to
 “me with wonderful attention, observe the
 “most minute exactness in his reply, as if
 “what I had urged had indeed great force: nay,
 “had

“ he would sometimes seem a little prest by my
 “ arguments ; pause for a few moments, as if
 “ he found it necessary to collect all his strength
 “ against so potent an adversary ; and after a
 “ well-turned compliment on my understand-
 “ ing, he would resume the argument, in which
 “ he never failed to puzzle, though he could
 “ not convince me ; but always concluded with
 “ a declaration that I was too hard for him, and
 “ it was well he had the best side of the argu-
 “ ment, for nothing but truth could stand a-
 “ gainst such subtilty of reasoning.

“ These praises always left me in a very good
 “ disposition to renew the subject whenever an
 “ opportunity offered. I began to be extremely
 “ fond of disputing with the chaplain ; and, in-
 “ stead of shunning it, as I used to do, I even
 “ invited his opposition.

“ I have heard it observed that vanity cheats
 “ many a woman out of her honour, I am sure
 “ it was well nigh cheating me out of my reli-
 “ gion ; for this jesuit by his insidious praises
 “ had given me such a confidence in my talent
 “ of reasoning, that I began to believe if he did
 “ not make a proselyte of me, I should cer-
 “ tainly make one of him ; and, in my eager
 “ pursuit of victory, I sometimes engaged my-
 “ self

“ self beyond my strength, and received such
 “ checks, that if my faith was not overthrown,
 “ yet it was strangely staggered : but some dis-
 “ gust which I took to the manners of the chap-
 “ lain preserved me from the poison of his doc-
 “ trine, and made me lose all my relish for
 “ arguing with him.

“ My aunt, who was certainly very desirous
 “ of my conversion, was much pleased with
 “ her chaplain’s zeal to forward so great a
 “ work ; and that she might give no inter-
 “ ruption to our discourse, she would often leave
 “ us alone for several hours together.

“ At such times, the jesuit would be very
 “ lavish of his compliments and praises, of
 “ which my person would even come in for
 “ a share—He would gaze on my face till he
 “ lost the chain of his discourse, and, by his
 “ inattention to what he was saying, gave me
 “ many advantages over him ; and often, while
 “ he was pursuing his argument with great
 “ warmth, he would lay his hand on mine,
 “ hold it for several minutes together, and press
 “ it so violently, that I could hardly help cry-
 “ ing out.

“ All this, however, would not have startled
 “ me ; but one day, taking occasion upon some-
 “ thing I had said to break into an exclamation

“ of surprise, at my prodigious understanding,
 “ he kissed my hand in a kind of rapture ; and
 “ having once taken this liberty, he repeated it
 “ several times, to my great confusion and sur-
 “ prise.

“ These are suspicions, my dear, which,
 “ against persons of a certain character, one dare
 “ not even avow to one’s self. I was shocked,
 “ yet would not venture to examine why ; I
 “ could never endure to be alone with him, yet
 “ never asked myself the reason ; my eyes, as it
 “ were, mechanically avoided his ; his civilities
 “ were odious to me. If he enquired after my
 “ health, I answered him coldly, without know-
 “ ing I did so ; and when he launched into any
 “ of his usual praises, I was downright rude to
 “ him, yet scarce perceived it myself.

“ I now so carefully shunned being alone
 “ with him, that notwithstanding he sought op-
 “ portunities of engaging me in private, which
 “ heightened my disgust, yet he never could
 “ find any. This conduct, if he had any guilt
 “ in his heart, must certainly give him cause
 “ to think I had detected it ; and indeed I soon
 “ found, by my aunt’s altered behaviour, that he
 “ was endeavouring to undermine me in her
 “ affection.

“ The

“ The little peevishness I observed in her to-
 “ wards me, I imputed at first to her chagrin,
 “ at my having disappointed her wishes in not
 “ becoming a convert to that religion she pro-
 “ fessed ; but I soon found that she had been
 “ made to conceive strange notions of me. She
 “ objected to the gaiety of my disposition ; she
 “ did not like that crowd of lovers, as she
 “ phrased it, that followed me, and were en-
 “ couraged by my coquet airs, and the pleasure
 “ I shewed in being admired.

“ It is certain, that the report of the fortune
 “ my aunt designed for me, procured me ad-
 “ dresses from several men, whom as she did not
 “ approve, so neither did I encourage ; having,
 “ in reality, none of that sort of vanity which is
 “ gratified by a great many pretenders of this
 “ kind, nor did I feel the least partiality to any
 “ one of them ; so that I told her it would give
 “ me no uneasiness if she forbid their visits for
 “ the future, which, since I found they were
 “ disagreeable to her, I would have done myself,
 “ if I had thought it became me to take that li-
 “ berty in her house. This declaration would
 “ not satisfy my aunt : she had further views ; I
 “ must marry, and she must choose a husband
 “ for me, without leaving me in an affair that so
 “ nearly

“ nearly concerned my happiness, even a negative voice.

“ I have no doubt but that the person she pitched upon was recommended to her by the chaplain; he was a Roman catholic baronet, had a good estate, was not much above sixty years of age, his person just not horrible, and he was not quite a fool. This was the man whom my aunt proposed to me, or rather commanded me to accept; for he had modesty enough not to try to engage my affections, till he had secured her consent, and was admitted in form to make his addresses to me.

“ My aunt indeed allowed that there was some disproportion in our years; but then he had a good estate, and I was wholly dependent upon her; his person, she acknowledged, was not very amiable, but he was a baronet, and could give me a title; to be sure, she said, he was not a man of bright parts, but he would make a good settlement on me; and concluded with assuring me, that my cheerful consent would greatly endear me to her, which I should find by the disposition she would make in her will.

“ My aunt, having thus anticipated every objection I could make, and, in her opinion, fully

“ fully answered them all, I thought it would be
 “ to no purpose to dispute with her on points
 “ already decided; I therefore contented my-
 “ self with declaring, that I could not like Sir
 “ Isaac Darby (for that was his name); that I
 “ should be miserable, if I married him; that
 “ I was extremely happy in my present situation,
 “ and had no wish to change it.

“ Lady Meadows, I perceived, was a little
 “ offended at this so positive a declaration; but,
 “ I had nothing for it but steadiness. I expected,
 “ said she, more compliance from that sweet-
 “ ness I have been fond of supposing in your
 “ temper, and from your good sense, a greater
 “ attention to your own interest. I assured her,
 “ that it was and ever should be my sincerest
 “ endeavour to avoid offending her; that I
 “ would admit no offer but such as she should
 “ approve; and that I would guard my heart
 “ against any preference which was not au-
 “ thorised by her; more than this I told her was
 “ not in my power to promise, for no considera-
 “ tion of interest could prevail upon me to give
 “ my hand to a man, whom it was impossible for
 “ me either to love or esteem.

“ Finding she listened to me patiently, I urged
 “ every argument my imagination could furnish
 “ me with, to prove to her that such an engage-
 “ ment

“ment, entered into upon pecuniary motives
 “only, could not be happy, and might be very
 “miserable. I begged she would not think of
 “disposing of me in marriage, till I seemed less
 “satisfied with my present happy lot ; and that,
 “by giving me no superior duties in domestic
 “life to fulfil, she might entitle herself to all
 “my undivided cares, affection, and assiduity.

“My aunt seemed affected with what I said :
 “she told me she had no intention of forcing
 “my inclination ; that, loving me so well as she
 “did, it was natural for her to wish to see me
 “settled ; that Sir Isaac Darby was a very ad-
 “vantagous offer ; she recommended to me to
 “consider well what I refused, and to conquer
 “my unreasonable dislike of him, if possible.

“If it were possible, madam, replied I, your
 “command would make me attempt it, but—
 “No more buts now, Henrietta, interrupted
 “my aunt—Sir Isaac dines here to-day ; re-
 “member I expect you will treat him civilly at
 “least, since he has so great a regard for you.

“I smiled, courtesied, and went out of the
 “where this long conversation had been held ;
 “for I heard the chaplain’s step in my aunt’s
 “dressing-room ; and this being the hour when
 “he generally joined us, I chose to avoid seeing
 “him then, for fear he should prevail upon her

“ to exact something more than civility from me
 “ to the odious wretch, who had thus bartered
 “ for me without my consent.

“ I did not appear in the dining-room till
 “ dinner was ready to be served ; my antiquated
 “ lover approached with a janty air, and a
 “ sliding bow ; and O ! don’t you pity me, my
 “ dear, kissed my hand, as he led me to my
 “ seat. Nothing but the respect I owed my
 “ aunt could have hindered me from laughing,
 “ at this ridiculous display of gallantry in the old
 “ man ; for age has no claim to our reverence,
 “ if not accompanied by those qualities from
 “ whence it derives its worth. Wisdom, gra-
 “ vity, experience, the triumph of reason over
 “ passions, prejudice, and folly : all these we
 “ expect to find in fulness of years, and these
 “ make its wrinkles not only respectable but
 “ even lovely.

“ In Sir Isaac Darby, age was contemptible
 “ as well as unlovely ; he wanted to be young,
 “ in spite of time ; he talked and laughed aloud ;
 “ he strutted about the room ; he adjusted his
 “ bag, for he was drest up to five and twenty ;
 “ he hummed a tune : I sat staring with astonish-
 “ ment at him. When we were placed at table,
 “ I found myself opposite to him ; and observing
 “ that he chewed his meat with great difficulty,
 “ for

“ for want of teeth, I was resolved to mortify
 “ him, by letting him perceive that I observed
 “ it, looking at him several times with a kind of
 “ sensibility for this so unavoidable a misfortune.

“ From what had passed between my aunt
 “ and I in the morning, I had no reason to ima-
 “ gine that Sir Isaac would be treated as a de-
 “ clared and authorised lover ; but some time
 “ after dinner was over, Mr. Danvers withdrew,
 “ and my aunt, upon some trifling pretence,
 “ following him, I was left alone with the old
 “ baronet. I would instantly have quitted the
 “ room ; but, remembring that my aunt had re-
 “ quired civility of me at least, I resolved not
 “ to affront him, by leaving him to himself ;
 “ and since I was obliged to stay, I would draw
 “ some amusement from the ridiculous scene be-
 “ fore me.

“ I know not whether it was from any particu-
 “ lar archness in my looks just then (for I had
 “ composed my countenance to a kind of forced
 “ gravity) or whether the old man was at a loss
 “ in what manner he should form his address ;
 “ but it is certain, that all his confidence seemed
 “ now, for the first time, to forsake him, and
 “ he sat silent during several minutes, stealing
 “ a glance at me every now and then ; while I,
 “ with a formal air, played my fan, and in-

“ creased his confusion by my silence. At length
 “ he quitted his own chair for that which my
 “ aunt had sat in, and which was next me; and
 “ drawing it still nearer to me, he made a mo-
 “ tion to take my hand, which I withdrew as
 “ hastily as if a snake had touched it.

“ This action a little disconcerted him; but
 “ taking courage again, after a preluding hem,
 “ he began, Charming miss Courteney, I don’t
 “ doubt but lady Meadows has informed you of
 “ the violence of my——Here an unlucky cough
 “ interrupted his speech, and held him so long,
 “ that he grew black in the face; his endeavours
 “ to suppress it having, as I believe, almost
 “ choaked him. I rose up in a seeming fright,
 “ as if I had designed to call for assistance; but
 “ finding his cough had ceased, I sat down again
 “ at a greater distance than before.

“ I fancy the town air does not agree with
 “ you, sir, said I, it is certainly very bad for
 “ asthmatical disorders.

“ Oh, madam! said he, this is no asthma.
 “ I got a slight cold the other night at Spring-
 “ Gardens; for we staid very late, and the ground
 “ was damp: but I came off better than any of
 “ my companions, two or three of whom are
 “ still laid up with colds. But tell me, dear
 “ miss Courteney, did you receive favourably
 “ the

“ the declaration your aunt made in my name ?
 “ may I hope, or am I doomed to despair ?
 “ whined out the superannuated enamorado, with
 “ an hideous ogle, which he designed for a lan-
 “ guish.

“ Oh, good sir ! replied I, excessively shocked
 “ at his folly, these Arcadian strains do not be-
 “ come your wisdom and gravity. My aunt did
 “ mention your proposals to me, but, I cannot
 “ accept them ; I have no inclination to change
 “ my condition.

“ How admirably this pretty seriousness fits
 “ on those sweet features ! said the wretch,
 “ looking confidently at me, without being in
 “ the least mortified with my rebuke. But my
 “ dear miss Courteney, you must change your
 “ mind—indeed you must—and your condition
 “ too, my fair one.

“ Perhaps I may, sir, said I.

“ Oh, that charming perhaps ! said he, it re-
 “ stores me to life.

“ Was there ever any thing so provoking,
 “ my dear ? I protest I could hardly help abus-
 “ ing the ridiculous old man.

“ I really think, sir, said I, looking at him
 “ with infinite contempt, that my seriousness
 “ would become your age, as well as my youth ;
 “ but, pursued I, rising, to put an end to all

“ your hopes, be pleased to know, that I
 “ am determined never to give my hand till I
 “ can give my heart with it ; for I have no no-
 “ tion of being perjured at the altar, and of
 “ vowing to love, honour and obey, when it is
 “ impossible for me to do either.

“ I went out of the room when I had said
 “ these words, leaving the baronet to mumble
 “ the ends of his fingers with his gums ; for
 “ he affected to bite his nails, as some per-
 “ sons who really have teeth, do, when they are
 “ angry.

“ I met my aunt as I was going to my own
 “ chamber : What, Henrietta ! said she, have
 “ you left sir Isaac alone ?— I suppose you have
 “ treated him rudely ; but come, you must re-
 “ turn with me— I will, if you insist upon it,
 “ madam, said I, but I had much rather be
 “ excused— Indeed ! said my aunt, looking a
 “ little angrily on me, and with that grave face
 “ too, but I shall not insist upon it, miss, and
 “ so you may go up to your own room if you
 “ please.

“ Although I was very glad to be at liberty
 “ to retire, yet my aunt’s permission was given
 “ in such a manner that I saw she was offended
 “ with me for desiring it. I had experienced
 “ the

“ the obstinacy of her temper on several occasions; and I was convinced that if she set her heart upon marrying me to the baronet, she would use her utmost endeavours to carry her point, and the loss of her favour might probably be the consequence of her disappointment.”

CHAP. V.

Containing an account of some difficulties our heroine was involved in, arising from an old exploded notion, that interest ought not to be the sole consideration in marriage.

“ FULL of these melancholy reflections, I resolved to write to Mr. Bale, acquaint him with what had passed, and intreat his advice in the uneasy and perplexed state of my mind. Not that I had the least intention of being governed by it, if he recommended to me compliance with my aunt’s commands in favour of the baronet; but this I was well assured, from his good sense and natural rectitude of mind, he would not do, since it could never be supposed that such a man could be my choice; but I was willing to stand clear in his opinion, and pay him that deference,

G 5

“ that

“ that was due to the quality of guardian which
 “ he had so kindly assumed.

“ I had been writing near three hours, for I
 “ had given him a circumstantial detail of every
 “ thing that had passed with regard to the ba-
 “ ronet, whose character I treated with great
 “ contempt; but what was worse, my aunt
 “ herself did not escape some satirical strokes
 “ of my pen for her ready concurrence with the
 “ old man’s proposals; and although I men-
 “ tioned her (as it was my duty) with all ima-
 “ ginable love and respect, yet I could not help
 “ humorously raillyng upon some of her notions,
 “ which were really odd enough, and I placed
 “ them in the most glaring light.

“ The prodigious length of my letter first
 “ gave me notice that I had been a long time
 “ thus employed; and, looking at my watch,
 “ I found it was past our usual hour for tea,
 “ and wondered that I had not been summoned
 “ down stairs. I therefore made haste to con-
 “ clude my letter, that I might send it to the
 “ post, when my aunt unfortunately entered
 “ the room. I started up from my chair when
 “ I saw her; and, hastily crushing the letter
 “ all in my hand, I put it into my pocket,
 “ not without betraying some signs of confu-
 “ sion.

“ So,

“ So, Henrietta, said my aunt, have I caught
 “ you? Caught me! madam, said I, con-
 “ sidering whether she might not have been
 “ looking over my shoulder while I was writ-
 “ ing so saucily about her; for guilt like love
 “ makes every thing seem possible that we fear.
 “ Yes, said she, have you not been writing?
 “ Nay, don’t deny it, pursued she (for I hesi-
 “ tated and knew not what to say, lest she
 “ should desire to see my letter) it is no won-
 “ der that poor sir Isaac Darby was rejected
 “ with so much scorn, when there is a fa-
 “ voured lover with whom you correspond
 “ privately.

“ Bless me, madam, cried I, who has told
 “ you so? I correspond privately with a fa-
 “ voured lover!— This is some cruel calumny
 “ invented by an enemy to deprive me of your
 “ good opinion. Well, said my aunt, shew
 “ me the letter you conveyed so hastily into your
 “ pocket upon my appearance, and then I shall
 “ know what to think.

“ You never, madam, replied I, used to de-
 “ sire to see my letters; nor would you now,
 “ but in consequence of some suspicion very un-
 “ favourable to me. That suspicion, inter-
 “ rupted my aunt, whatever it is, will be greatly

“ strengthened by your refusing to shew me what
 “ you have been writing.

“ Surely, madam, replied I, that is not just,
 “ I may have been writing to Mr. Bale, or to
 “ my brother. To your brother, said my
 “ aunt, I am certain you was not writing,
 “ because you have not heard from him for se-
 “ veral months, and don’t know how to direct
 “ to him (which indeed was but too true).
 “ It is possible that you were writing to Mr.
 “ Bale; but why refuse to shew me your letter?
 “ you can have no transactions with him that I
 “ ought not to be acquainted with: but I am
 “ persuaded that letter was not designed for Mr.
 “ Bale; and there needs no more to convince
 “ me that you are carrying on a private, and
 “ therefore an improper correspondence, than
 “ your thus obstinately refusing to shew it
 “ me.

“ My aunt had reason for what she said:
 “ nothing was more easy, if I was really inno-
 “ cent, than to shew her the letter, which
 “ would remove her suspicions; but this, as I
 “ had managed that fatal letter, it was impos-
 “ sible for me to do. By not shewing it, I
 “ confirmed those suspicions she had so unjustly
 “ conceived, which might indeed have disagree-
 “ able consequences; but by shewing it, I was
 “ sure

“ sure to incur her resentment for the liberties I
“ had taken with her.

“ How did I that moment inwardly regret
“ my vanity, which had suffered me to railly
“ the faults of a person on whom I so abso-
“ lutely depended, merely to display my wit.
“ I was so vexed at the dilemma to which I had
“ reduced myself, that I burst into tears.

“ Oh! I see how it is, said my aunt, keep
“ your letter, Henrietta, I am convinced suf-
“ ficiently. She hurried out of my chamber at
“ these words. Shocked to the soul at having
“ thus incurred the imputation of entertaining
“ a secret lover, I went after her, resolving in
“ that first emotion to shew her the letter, and
“ rather be thought ungrateful to her, than
“ guilty of an imprudence so disadvantageous
“ to my character; but she was already at
“ the bottom of the stairs, and I had time to
“ make new reflections which prevented my
“ former purpose.

“ I considered that since there was no foun-
“ dation for her fears that I listened to a private
“ address, I might easily find means to unde-
“ ceive her, and justify myself; but if I shewed
“ her a letter, in which she was mentioned with
“ so great freedom, I might possibly never be
“ able to remove those ill impressions of me
“ which

“ which she would doubtless receive, and I should
 “ be all my life branded for ingratitude.

“ I was so terrified at this thought, that I re-
 “ solved to put it out of my power to expose
 “ myself to such a misfortune by destroying the
 “ fatal letter, which I did with a precipitation
 “ that left no time for second thoughts. When
 “ this was over, I expected to have found my-
 “ self more calm and easy, but it was quite
 “ otherwise. I had given foundation to be-
 “ lieve that I was engaged in a love-intrigue;
 “ for surely all clandestine addresses may be
 “ termed so, since there is too much mystery,
 “ contrivance, and little arts, necessary to them,
 “ not to give great pain to a delicate mind. I
 “ burst into tears at the reflection. My aunt’s
 “ woman, who had a very tender regard for
 “ me, came into my chamber, and, finding
 “ me so disordered, begged to know what had
 “ happened.

“ I related every thing that had passed be-
 “ tween my aunt and I, but did not own to all
 “ the little freedoms I had taken with her in my
 “ letter; yet said enough to convince her, that
 “ I could not well show it to my aunt.

“ Mrs. White, for that was her name, was
 “ very much concerned for my situation: she
 “ told me, that her lady and Mr. Danvers were
 “ in

“ in close conference. It is certainly he, said
 “ she, who has infused these suspicions into my
 “ lady, which, by this unfortunate circum-
 “ stance of the letter, are now confirmed : she
 “ gave me such plain hints of the chaplain’s
 “ selfish dispositions and designs, that it seemed
 “ highly probable he would spare no artifices to
 “ lessen my aunt’s affection for me ; for, since
 “ he had failed in making me a convert, which
 “ perhaps might have answered other views, he
 “ was desirous of keeping my aunt entirely to
 “ himself, and so manage her conscience, which
 “ he had the direction of, as that holy mother-
 “ church and he might divide her spoils.

“ All this considered, my condition seemed
 “ so dangerous, that I begged Mrs. White to
 “ send a porter with a message from me to Mr.
 “ Bale, desiring to see him ; for I resolved to
 “ regulate my conduct on this occasion wholly
 “ by his advice. She left me to do what I had
 “ desired her ; and I remained alone in my
 “ chamber till nine o’clock, at which time I was
 “ summoned to supper.

“ I found only my aunt and Mr. Danvers :
 “ I was a little confused ; for knowing what sus-
 “ picions I laboured under in my aunt’s mind,
 “ I thought I had the air of a guilty person, and
 “ I

“ I felt that I blushed, and blushed the more for
 “ that reason.

“ My aunt looked very coldly upon me ; Mr.
 “ Danvers looked like one that was very much
 “ concerned that all was not well between us :
 “ my aunt scarce spoke three words during
 “ supper ; it was not my part surely to talk much ;
 “ and Mr. Danvers accommodated himself to
 “ the present temper of my aunt ; so that this was
 “ a very gloomy meal.

“ When the cloth was removed, I was going
 “ to withdraw, for it seemed as if my presence
 “ was a restraint upon my aunt ; but I con-
 “ sidered that such a step being unusual, would
 “ imply a consciousness of something wrong in
 “ me, and that being innocent, it was my part
 “ to seek an explanation. I therefore addressed
 “ myself to my aunt, and begged she would give
 “ me an opportunity of clearing myself, by tell-
 “ ing me who had poisoned her mind with sus-
 “ picions to my prejudice.

“ The chaplain was about to leave the room
 “ upon my entering on this subject. There is
 “ no necessity, sir, said I, for your retiring ; I
 “ dare say the cause of my aunt’s displeasure
 “ against me is no secret to you. My aunt has
 “ been told that I receive addresses from some
 “ man in private, and that I correspond with
 “ him ;

“ him ; I declare this to be absolutely false, and
 “ I beg to know from whom you had your infor-
 “ mation, madam, said I, again directing my-
 “ self to her, that I may refute this calumny ; I
 “ am very confident the person who has thus ma-
 “ liciously injured me, will not dare to maintain
 “ the falshood to my face.

“ Whether the chaplain thought this was
 “ meant for him, I know not ; but although he
 “ had continued standing, as if he intended to
 “ leave us to ourselves, yet I had no sooner uttered
 “ these last words than he resumed his seat im-
 “ mediately, as if he would shew me he was not
 “ in the least affected by them ; but I observed
 “ that he fixed his eyes upon my aunt, and ex-
 “ pected her answer with some emotion.

“ Before I comply with your condition, said
 “ my aunt, do you, Henrietta, agree to mine ;
 “ let me see that letter you wrote to-day. I
 “ looked at the chaplain ; I saw an alteration in
 “ his countenance, he was evidently more com-
 “ posed. Oh ! thought I, sighing, how great
 “ would my triumph be, if I had this letter to
 “ show, and could show it without fear !

“ You hesitate, Henrietta, pursued my aunt,
 “ why, if that letter was not to a lover, why do
 “ you refuse to produce it ? I declare, madam,
 “ said I, upon my word and honour, that the
 “ letter

“ letter was to Mr. Bale— Well, let me see it,
 “ said my aunt, and I shall be satisfied— I can-
 “ not show it to you, madam, replied I, in a
 “ faltering accent (for I dreaded the inference
 “ that would be drawn from what I was going
 “ to confess) I have torn it. Well, said my aunt,
 “ with a calmness that cost her some pains to
 “ maintain; and why did you tear it? it was
 “ not written to be torn, that is certain— But
 “ I will answer for you, niece, you tore it that
 “ I might not see it; and why might I not see
 “ it, if it was to Mr. Bale— Again I protest,
 “ said I, that it was to him; but I did not
 “ chuse to let you see it, it was a long letter,
 “ full of impertinences: you would have thought
 “ I was very free in my observations on some
 “ particular persons, more free than became me
 “ perhaps— You might have been offended, and
 “ I tore it to prevent your seeing it.

“ My aunt looked down, paused, and seemed
 “ not wholly dissatisfied with my manner of ac-
 “ counting for the reluctance I shewed to deliver
 “ my letter to her; but before she would declare
 “ herself, it was necessary she should consult her
 “ oracle, and that could not be done before
 “ me. She therefore put an end to the conver-
 “ sation, by ringing the bell for her woman. I
 “ attended her to her chamber, at the door of
 “ which

“ which she bade me good night, telling me,
 “ she would talk further with me in the morn-
 “ ing.

“ I endeavoured to make Mrs. White com-
 “ prehend, by a look I gave her unobserved,
 “ that I wished to speak to her ; and according-
 “ ly she came to me, after my aunt was in bed,
 “ and delivered the answer the porter had brought
 “ from Mr. Bale’s ; he was out of town, but
 “ expected back in a week or two, was what the
 “ servants told him.

“ Mrs. White repeated her offers of service to
 “ me, but dropped some expressions that shewed
 “ she would be glad to be assured that I really had
 “ no secret engagement which might justify my
 “ aunt’s concern.

“ These doubts hinted with great respect,
 “ were so far from being resented by me, that I
 “ conceived the better opinion of her discretion,
 “ and confided absolutely in her sincerity. ‘ I
 “ made her quite easy with regard to the subject
 “ of her fears ; and she repaid this condescension
 “ with the kindest assurances of attachment to
 “ me and care of my interests.

“ I went to bed, full of hope that I had in
 “ part removed my aunt’s suspicions, and re-
 “ lying on my innocence, I was persuaded I
 “ should soon restore myself to her good opinion ;
 “ but

“ but innocence is not always a security to its
 “ possessor, because malice attains its ends by arts,
 “ which a good mind cannot conceive, and there-
 “ fore is unable to guard against.

“ Mrs. White informed me in a whisper, as
 “ I was going into my aunt’s dressing-room next
 “ morning, where we always breakfasted, that
 “ her lady and the chaplain had been talking
 “ together for half an hour. I drew no favour-
 “ able omen from this intelligence, nor from
 “ my aunt’s looks, which were very cold and
 “ constrained.

“ When breakfast was over, and Mr. Dan-
 “ vers had withdrawn, I expected she would
 “ enter into some conversation with me on the
 “ subject of the letter ; but finding she talked of
 “ different things, I took occasion to mention
 “ it myself, and begged to know if she had any
 “ doubts still remaining in her mind.

“ Surely, replied my aunt, you think I am a
 “ person that can be very easily imposed upon.
 “ Then you are resolved, madam, said I, with
 “ some peevishness (for indeed I was horribly
 “ vexed to find her so strongly prejudiced) to
 “ believe I encourage a clandestine address,
 “ notwithstanding every appearance to the con-
 “ trary.

“ No,

“ No indeed, interrupted my aunt, I am not
 “ so unreasonable, miss ; it is because there are
 “ very strong appearances against you, that I
 “ am forced to believe what you would not
 “ have me—that letter, Henrietta—but no more
 “ on this subject at present, I am going to my
 “ house near Windsor-forest to-morrow ; we
 “ shall there have leisure enough to talk over this
 “ affair, and there I shall open my mind freely
 “ to you. I courtised and was silent.

“ My aunt took me with her to pay some
 “ morning visits, and seemed to be in very good
 “ humour ; but her words, that she would
 “ open her mind freely to me at Windsor, gave
 “ me a great deal of anxiety. I did not doubt
 “ but I was to be prest again on the subject of
 “ sir Isaac Darby, and I was prepared for an
 “ obstinate resistance ; but I was apprehensive
 “ that this resistance to my aunt’s will, meet-
 “ ing with the unaccountable suspicions she had
 “ entertained, would infallibly ruin me with
 “ her. O my brother ! thought I, why are
 “ you not here to countenance and protect me ;
 “ or why have you so long neglected me, as to
 “ leave me in suspense whether I have a brother
 “ or not !

“ This thought, and several others no less
 “ painful, spread an air of pensiveness and me-
 “ lancholy

“ lancholy on my countenance, which my aunt,
 “ as I perceived, by some hints that dropped
 “ from her, interpreted to my disadvantage.
 “ In short, my dear, she imputed my pensive-
 “ ness to the concern I was under at leaving
 “ town, as I could not expect to have many op-
 “ portunities of seeing at Windsor this lover that
 “ had possession of my heart.

“ You cannot imagine, miss Woodby, how
 “ much I suffered in being obliged to restrain
 “ my indignation at being thus treated ; to have
 “ a phantom of a lover conjured up to tease me
 “ with, and to combat suspicions which had
 “ not the least foundation, but in prejudice and
 “ caprice, against which plain truth and reason
 “ were very unequal arms : for how should rea-
 “ son remove what would never have been ad-
 “ mitted, if reason had not been first set aside ?
 “ Nothing was ever more improbable than that
 “ I should have a secret lover : I never went any
 “ where without my aunt ; her visitors were
 “ mine ; I could see no body without her know-
 “ ledge : how was this engagement formed ?
 “ But her chaplain had doubtless assured her,
 “ that I had a secret engagement, and she pious-
 “ ly believed him, in contradiction to her own
 “ judgment : this was one of those cases that re-
 “ quired an implicit faith ; and in matters of
 “ faith,

“ faith, you know, Roman catholicks are not
 “ permitted to exercise their reason.

“ We set out next morning for Windsor, the
 “ chaplain and my aunt’s woman being in the
 “ coach, the conversation was wholly upon in-
 “ different things. After dinner was over, my
 “ aunt took me into her closet, and entered into
 “ a long discourse, which it would tire you to
 “ repeat— but the substance of it was my un-
 “ happy situation, when she took me out of the
 “ hands of lady Manning— her tendernefs for
 “ me; the great things she designed to do for
 “ me, nothing less than making me her sole
 “ heir; the folly of marrying for love, exem-
 “ plified in my father’s marriage; her fears that
 “ I was going to throw myself away on some
 “ young fop, who would make me miserable;
 “ sir Isaac Darby’s generous passion for me, his
 “ great estate, the handsome settlements he pro-
 “ posed to make; and lastly, the pleasure I
 “ would give her, by suiting in this case my in-
 “ clinations to my interest.

“ To all this I answered very particularly; I
 “ acknowledged she had shewn a parental ten-
 “ dernefs for me, and I had paid her, and ever
 “ would pay her, I said, the duty and obedience
 “ due from a child to a parent: that in the ar-
 “ ticle of marriage, my natural parents would

“ certainly have allowed me a negative voice,
 “ which was all I claimed now, since I was ab-
 “ solutely resolved not only never to marry with-
 “ out her consent, but not to admit of any ad-
 “ dress which she disapproved. I begged her
 “ never to propose sir Isaac Darby to me again,
 “ because my heart wholly rejected him; tho’
 “ at the same time I protested (as I might well
 “ do) that my affections were entirely disengaged.

“ All your asseverations, replied my aunt
 “ (who had listened to me with many signs of
 “ impatience) signify nothing without you marry
 “ sir Isaac Darby; and by that only shall I be
 “ convinced that your head does not run upon
 “ some wild showy fellow, who will make your
 “ heart ache.

“ Here (continued she) is a baronet of an an-
 “ cient family, a large estate, of good morals,
 “ not disagreeable in his person—but what is
 “ person in a man? who loves you, who will
 “ make you a large jointure, who gives you a
 “ title, place, equipage, all that a prudent sen-
 “ sible woman can desire, and you refuse him;
 “ grant that he is older than you, he has the
 “ more wisdom—O my dear, how difficult it
 “ was for me to forbear laughing here; but you
 “ are not in love with him—let me tell you,
 “ Henrietta, that is not a plea for a young
 “ woman

" woman of delicacy—What, is it not possible
 " for you to make a good wife to an honest gen-
 " tleman, without bringing with you all that
 " romantick passion which forces girls to jump
 " out of windows to get to their fellows ; and,
 " for the sake of a man who possibly a few weeks
 " before was an absolute stranger to them, break
 " through every tie of natural affection, and, to
 " be a wife, be contented to be neither daughter,
 " sister, or niece.

" I was going to speak— My aunt in a pe-
 " remptory manner laid her hand on my mouth.
 " I will not hear a word more, said she, on this
 " subject ; if you refuse to give your hand to sir
 " Isaac, I know what I am to think—I give you
 " two days to consider of it. I have hitherto
 " treated you as my own child ; if you com-
 " ply you shall find me a mother, if not I am
 " only your aunt ; and you know how some
 " who stand in that degree of relation to you be-
 " have. This was pretty plain, my dear : I was
 " so shocked that I suffered my aunt to go out of
 " the closet without making any answer ; and
 " retired to my own chamber to weep in free-
 " dom."

C H A P. VI.

In which our heroine is very reasonably alarmed.

“ I T was indeed true that my father’s family
 “ took no notice of me, notwithstanding
 “ the applications that had been made to them;
 “ and when my aunt Meadows introduced me
 “ at my uncle’s the earl of——, I was received
 “ so coldly by him and his lady, that I inly re-
 “ solved never to expose myself to such a mort-
 “ tification again, and my aunt entered so far
 “ into my just resentment as never to press me to
 “ make them a second visit.

“ My brother was abroad; if living he neg-
 “ lected me; and perhaps I had no brother;
 “ for how else could I account for so long a
 “ silence in one who seemed to have such tender
 “ affections? I had no resource but in Mr. Bale’s
 “ friendship, and he was at this time unluckily
 “ at too great a distance to be of any use to me
 “ I saw plainly that I must either accept sir Isaac
 “ Darby’s hand, or be thrown back into my
 “ former indigence and dependence— Dreadful
 “ alter-

“ alternative !— But the man considered, was
 “ there room to pause long ?

“ My imagination suggested to me every pos-
 “ sible ill consequence of the loss of my aunt’s
 “ favour, but weighed against the misery of
 “ such a marriage, they all seemed light— Yet
 “ would you think it, my dear, amidst the
 “ many real evils I had reason to apprehend by
 “ disobliging my aunt, one trifling circumstance
 “ dwelt strongest upon my mind, and that was
 “ the occasion of triumph I should give to lady
 “ Manning, who would exult over my fallen
 “ expectations and return to indigence. I was
 “ ashamed of my own weakness when I found
 “ this thought capable of giving me so much
 “ pain ; and in the contemplation of greater mis-
 “ fortunes which were likely to be my lot, I
 “ sought to blunt my sense of these lesser ones
 “ which were the necessary consequences of
 “ them.

“ Towards evening Mrs. White threw her-
 “ self in my way, as I was walking pensive in
 “ the garden. She told me that my aunt was
 “ full of hopes that I would comply : that sir
 “ Isaac was to be invited to-morrow ; and that
 “ it was expected the generosity of his proposals
 “ with regard to settlements, the rich presents
 “ of jewels which he would offer, and his reso-

" lution to agree to every thing I desired, would
 " make such an impression on my mind, as to
 " induce me to give a free and willing consent.
 " Mrs. White added, that since my aunt was so
 " determined upon concluding this match, she
 " wished I could conquer my aversion to it;
 " for she feared that my absolute refusal would
 " so irritate her, that she might be easily per-
 " suaded to take some violent resolution against
 " me; and there is one, said she, who will
 " spare no pains to bring that to pass.

" I replied, that nothing which could befall me
 " from the loss of my aunt's favour, was to be
 " dreaded so much as being the wife of sir Isaac
 " Darby; and that my resolution was fixed.
 " Mrs. White sighed, shrugged her shoulders,
 " and hastened from me for fear of being ob-
 " served, seeming, as I thought, to believe my
 " case desperate.

" When she was gone, I considered that if I
 " accepted of the two days my aunt had given
 " me to come to a resolution, I should be ex-
 " posed during that time to the odious courtship
 " of sir Isaac, whose presence was, it seems,
 " judged necessary to influence me; I therefore
 " determined to declare myself immediately, and
 " plunge at once into the distresses that awaited
 " me.

“I left the garden instantly, and went in search
 “ of my aunt ; as soon as I entered the room
 “ where she was, she laid down a book she had
 “ been reading, and looked earnestly at me,
 “ seeming, by my countenance on which I be-
 “ lieve was impressed the agitation of my mind,
 “ to expect something extraordinary.

“ You have indulged me, madam, said I, with
 “ two days to consider of your proposal with re-
 “ gard to sir Isaac Darby ; but so long a time is
 “ not necessary : were any thing less at stake than
 “ the future happiness of my life, you should
 “ find me incapable of opposing your will ; but
 “ in this case it is not possible for me to obey you.
 “ Judge of my aversion to that man, when I pro-
 “ test to you, that if death or his hand was an
 “ alternative that I must chuse, I would with-
 “ out hesitation prefer death as the lesser hard-
 “ ship.

“ This determined speech seemed to surprise
 “ my aunt, though I think she had no reason to
 “ expect I could ever be prevailed upon to marry
 “ sir Isaac.

“ You are an undone girl, said she, after a
 “ pause of near three minutes ; I believe your
 “ father’s folly is hereditary to you—I have done
 “ my duty—Your obstinacy be upon your own
 “ head.

“ I confess I was greatly affected with her
 “ calm resentment, so likely to be lasting: I
 “ burst into tears; she went out of the room, I
 “ followed her into another, where Mr. Dan-
 “ vers was sitting. As soon as I perceived him,
 “ I hastily withdrew, for I was not willing to be
 “ seen by him in that state of dejection—I re-
 “ tired to my own room, and there; after I had
 “ relieved my mind by another flood of tears, I
 “ endeavoured to soften my own apprehensions
 “ of what might be the effects of having dis-
 “ obliged the only relation who would own me,
 “ and collected all my fortitude to enable me to
 “ bear the worst that could happen. But that
 “ worst, my dear, proved so terrible to my
 “ frightened imagination, that to avoid it, I have
 “ taken a very imprudent and dangerous step,
 “ and whither it will lead me, Heaven knows;
 “ for my heart forebodes some fatal consequence
 “ from it.”

“ “ Lord bless me ! ” said miss Woodby,
 “ after escaping such an odious husband as sir
 “ Isaac, was any thing worse to be feared ! ”

“ “ Ah ! ” cried miss Courteney ; “ but it was
 “ not certain whether I should escape him ; for
 “ if my aunt’s scheme had taken place, I had
 “ every thing to fear.” “ What could your
 “ aunt’s scheme be ? ” said miss Woodby, impa-
 “ tently.

tiently. "Mr. Danvers's rather," said miss Courteney, "and its being his made it more
"formidable.

"My aunt seemed so easy and chearful at
"supper, and spoke to me so kindly, that all
"my gloomy apprehensions vanished, and I
"was happy in the thought that I should pre-
"serve her favour without becoming the wife of
"sir Isaac Darby; but I was soon undeceived.
"Mrs. White tapp'd at my door, after she had
"put my aunt to bed; I let her in, and, in a
"rapture of joy, I told her how favourably my
"aunt seemed disposed, and that I should no
"longer be persecuted about the odious baronet.
"O miss! said she, I am afraid this calm fore-
"tels a storm. A storm, repeated I, what do
"you mean?

"I always dreaded, said she, that Mr. Dan-
"vers would use his power with my lady to your
"disadvantage; but who could have imagined
"that he would prevail upon her to send you to
"France, and lock you up in a nunnery?

"How! exclaimed I, almost breathless with
"terror and surprise—Confine me in a nun-
"nery! Is it possible—How came you to know
"this?

"By the strangest chance in the world, re-
"plied Mrs. White. I am not used to listen,

“ I scorn it ; but some words that fell from the
 “ chaplain, alarmed me on your account, and
 “ I resolved, if possible, to know what he
 “ was driving at. This evening, pursued she,
 “ I went to my lady to take her directions
 “ about some laces I was making up for her.
 “ I found the chaplain with her : they seemed
 “ to be in deep discourse ; and my lady, as if
 “ angry at being interrupted, bid me, in a hasty
 “ manner, come to her another time. I went
 “ away immediately ; and just as I shut the door,
 “ I heard the chaplain say, Depend upon it,
 “ madam, there is no other way to preserve her
 “ from ruin. Certainly, thought I to myself,
 “ this must concern miss Courteney ; I put my
 “ ear to the key-hole, and heard my lady an-
 “ swer, But shall I not be called a tyrant, for
 “ sending my niece to a convent contrary to her
 “ inclinations ?

“ The chaplain made a long speech, which
 “ I could not distinctly hear ; but he told her
 “ she must make a sacrifice of such idle censures
 “ to God ; that it was her duty to endeavour
 “ to save a soul ; that you were in a state of per-
 “ dition ; and oh, my dear miss ! but that I
 “ cannot believe, he assured her you would
 “ throw yourself away upon the idle fellow
 “ (those

“ (those were his words) that you were in love
“ with, if not prevented by bolts and bars.

“ In the end my lady seemed determined,
“ and they consulted together about the means
“ they should use, to entrap you into a convent.
“ My lady proposed making a tour to Paris, by
“ way of amusement, to take you with her,
“ and leave you in some monastery. Mr. Dan-
“ vers, I found, objected to that ; he desired she
“ would leave the affair wholly to his manage-
“ ment, and said he would think of some expe-
“ dient that would be less troublesome to her.
“ I did not stay to hear any more ; for I was
“ apprehensive of some of the servants coming
“ that way, and discovering me at so mean a
“ trick as listening.

“ Good God ! cried I, what shall I do ?
“ what shall I do ? repeated I passionately, in
“ the anguish of my mind. My guardian is not
“ in town ! to whom shall I apply for advice
“ and assistance in this extremity ? I may be
“ hurried away to this horrid confinement,
“ when I least expect it.

“ That is impossible, said Mrs. White ; fore-
“ warned forearmed, as the saying is. Since
“ you know what is intended against you, you
“ must be upon your guard ; you cannot be car-
“ ried away against your will.

“ Mrs. White did not appear to me to have
 “ a very just sense of the danger I was exposed
 “ to ; for what will not bigotry attempt ! I was
 “ glad therefore when she left me to my own re-
 “ flections ; which she did, after begging me to
 “ be composed, and not to discover the manner
 “ in which I came by the intelligence she had
 “ given me.

“ The latter part of her injunction I faith-
 “ fully promised to perform ; but, oh ! my dear
 “ miss Woodby, how was it possible for me to
 “ be composed amidst such dreadful apprehen-
 “ sions ?—To be locked up in a gloomy mo-
 “ nastery, perhaps for ever, exposed to the per-
 “ secutions of superstitious zeal : but, this was
 “ not the worst of my fears — To be con-
 “ signed over, perhaps, to the care of a wolf in
 “ sheep’s cloathing, who had already shocked
 “ my delicacy with freedoms, that, proceeding
 “ from such a man, in such a character, might
 “ well awaken the most frightful suspicions.”

“ Truly,” said miss Woodby, “ that seemed
 “ to be the worst part of your danger ; for I
 “ don’t like this jesuit at all, every thing may
 “ be dreaded from a hypocrite : but, as to the
 “ being shut up in a convent, there is no great
 “ matter in it. Such beauty as yours would have
 “ soon engaged some adventurous knight in your
 “ cause,

“ cause, who would have scaled the walls to
 “ have delivered you—Oh, what a charming
 “ adventure ! I protest I would submit to a few
 “ months confinement in such a place, for the
 “ pleasure of being delivered from it in so gallant
 “ a manner.”

“ Sure you are not in earnest,” said Henrietta.
 “ Indeed but I am,” replied miss Woodby.
 “ Well,” resumed miss Courteney, “ you have
 “ very whimsical notions ; but I assure you none
 “ of these entered into my head : the loss of li-
 “ berty seemed to me so frightful a misfortune,
 “ that I was almost distracted with the idea of
 “ it.

“ The first thought that occurred to me, and
 “ which indeed was the most natural, was to
 “ prevent my aunt from carrying her designs
 “ into execution, by leaving her. I might well
 “ imagine she would use violence to detain me,
 “ if I attempted it openly ; therefore it was ne-
 “ cessary to steal myself away, and this has the
 “ air of an adventure you must own ; but as I
 “ had no confident in this design, no gallant
 “ youth to assist me in my escape, and did not
 “ even make use of a ladder of ropes, or en-
 “ danger breaking my neck, I am afraid this
 “ adventure is not in a taste high enough for
 “ you.”

“ Oh, you are rallying me !” said miss Wood-
by ; “ but I long to know how you escaped ; no
“ confident ! how could you manage so arduous
“ an undertaking by yourself ?”

“ With great ease, I assure you,” said miss
Courteney ; “ and I don’t think you will allow
“ it to be an escape, when I tell you I walked
“ peaceably out of a door, not without some tre-
“ pidation however, which arose less from the
“ fear of a pursuit, than the consciousness that I
“ was taking a step which every young woman
“ of delicacy will if possible avoid.

“ As I have already told you, I instantly re-
“ solved upon leaving my aunt ; but where should
“ I seek an asylum ? Mr. Bale, whose protec-
“ tion I might have requested with honour, was
“ not in town ; my brother was abroad ; none
“ of my father’s relations would receive me ;
“ I had no acquaintances but such as were my
“ aunt’s, to whom any application would have
“ been very improper, as I should have found
“ very strong prejudices to combat with ; it be-
“ ing a received maxim among persons of a
“ certain age, that young people are always in
“ the wrong ; besides, one seldom meets with
“ any one who has not that littleness of soul
“ which is mistaken for prudence, and teaches
“ that it is not safe to meddle with other peo-
“ ple’s

“ple’s affairs, which narrow notion prevents
 “many a good office, many a kind interposition;
 “so that we seem to live only for ourselves.

“My perplexed mind could suggest no better
 “expedient to me, than to seize the first oppor-
 “tunity that offered to go to London, and there
 “conceal myself in a private lodging till Mr.
 “Bale’s return, who I doubted not would take
 “me under his protection. Before I had fixed
 “upon this resolution, great part of the night
 “was wasted; so that I lay later than usual the
 “next morning. When I went down to break-
 “fast, I found my aunt dressed, and her coach
 “ordered. She took notice that my eyes looked
 “heavy; I told her I had a violent headach,
 “which indeed was true: she said it was a
 “cold, and bid me keep myself warm.

“I am going to Richmond, added she, it
 “will be late before I return to dinner; there-
 “fore let the cook get you a chicken when you
 “chuse to dine, and don’t walk out to increase
 “your cold.

“My heart leaped so when I found I was to
 “be left at home, that I was afraid my emotion
 “was visible in my countenance. My aunt
 “however did not observe it; for, apparently,
 “she had no suspicion that I knew any thing of
 “her design to send me to a convent: and

“ therefore she could not possibly guess my in-
 “ tention to leave her. But she certainly over-
 “ acted her part, all on a sudden to drop her fa-
 “ vourite scheme, the marrying me to sir Isaac
 “ Darby ; and when I might reasonably expect
 “ that my obstinate refusal to comply with her
 “ desires, would create some coldness in her to-
 “ wards me, to find her not only free from all
 “ resentment, but even particularly kind and
 “ obliging. Sure this was sufficient to raise
 “ doubts in my mind, that something more
 “ than ordinary was at the bottom of all this af-
 “ fability.

“ It often happens that cunning over-reaches
 “ itself ; for it seldom hits a medium, and gene-
 “ rally does too much or too little. My aunt’s
 “ behaviour would have led me to suspect that
 “ some design was forming against me ; but if it
 “ had not been for Mrs. White’s information, I
 “ should never have been able to discover what
 “ it was, for my own penetration would have
 “ gone no further than to suggest, that some
 “ scheme was laid to bring about my marriage
 “ with sir Isaac Darby ; but this fear would have
 “ been sufficient to have winged my flight, so
 “ that the arts my aunt made use of to lull me
 “ into security, proved the very foundation of
 “ my doubts.

“ I had a new palpitation of the heart when
 “ I saw the chaplain follow my aunt into the
 “ coach. Sure ! thought I, Heaven approves
 “ of my design to get away, since so many cir-
 “ cumstances concur to make it practicable. It
 “ was natural, my dear, as my religion was in
 “ danger from the persecutions preparing for me,
 “ to think Heaven interested in the success of my
 “ intended escape.

“ There is certainly something very pleasing
 “ in supposing one’s self the peculiar care of
 “ Providence on certain occasions. A Roman
 “ catholick would have made little less than a
 “ miracle of so favourable a concurrence of cir-
 “ cumstances. However I suppressed this rising
 “ folly of spiritual vanity, and employed my
 “ thoughts in contriving how to get to town with
 “ convenience and safety, without expecting any
 “ supernatural assistance.”

Here miss Woodby broke in upon the fair nar-
 rater, with an exclamation that will be found in
 the following chapter.

C H A P. VII.

In which Henrietta concludes her history.

“ O H ! my dear,” interrupted miss Wood-
 by, laughing, “ you have given an ex-
 “ cellent name to a species of folly, which at
 “ once excites one’s laughter and indignation.
 “ I know an old lady who is a constant fre-
 “ quenter of the chapel in Oxford-road, that
 “ has arrived to such a heighth of spiritual va-
 “ nity as you justly term it, that she fancies
 “ Providence is perpetually exerting itself in mi-
 “ racles for her preservation, and that her most
 “ inconsiderable actions are under the imme-
 “ diate direction of Heaven ; for she will tell
 “ you with surprising meekness and humility,
 “ that unworthy as she is, she is in high favour
 “ with God ; if she happens to stumble against
 “ a stone without falling, she says, with a smile
 “ of conscious satisfaction, To be sure God is
 “ very good to *me*. According to her, *God acts*
 “ *by partial, not by general laws.* And should
 “ it cease raining immediately before she is to
 “ go out, either to church or a visit, it is all
 “ *one*, she supposes that Providence is at that
 “ moment

“ moment at work for her, and has cleared the
 “ skies that she may walk with conveniency;
 “ for she cannot always purchase a coach or a
 “ chair, half of her little income being appro-
 “ priated to the preachers, from whose doctrine
 “ she has imbibed these self-flattering ideas.”

“ Oh !” said miss Courteney, laughing,
 “ you have heightened the colouring of this
 “ picture exceedingly.”

“ Upon my word I have not,” said miss
 Woodby, “ and— but that I am not willing to
 “ interrupt your story so long, I could give you
 “ an hundred proofs of this odd species of pride ;
 “ for I assure you, my dear, the haughtiest beauty
 “ in the drawing-room, amidst a croud of adorers
 “ and in the fullest display of airs and graces,
 “ has not half the vanity of one of these saints
 “ of Whitefield’s or Wesley’s creation.”

“ I really pity the poor woman you men-
 “ tioned,” said Henrietta ; “ she appears to
 “ me to be very far from attaining to any
 “ degree of perfection : for may it not be
 “ supposed that this unreasonable confidence
 “ will lead her to neglect many duties very es-
 “ sential to a good christian ? For I have heard
 “ it observed, that the preachers of that sect
 “ chiefly declaim against fashionable follies ;
 “ and, according to them, to dress with ele-
 “ gance

“ gance, to go to a play or an opera, or to make
 “ one at a party of cards, are mortal sins ; mean
 “ time poor morals are wholly neglected, and
 “ superstition is made an equivalent for a vir-
 “ tuous life.”

“ Yet a writer,” replied miss Woodby,
 “ who is greatly admired by our sex, and who
 “ in his works pays court to all religions, carry-
 “ ing himself so evenly amidst them, that it is
 “ hard to distinguish to which he most inclines,
 “ has introduced these modern saints reclaiming
 “ a woman who had led a very vicious life, and
 “ doing more than all the best orthodox divines
 “ had done ; and he has not thrown away his
 “ compliment : I dare say this numerous sect
 “ has bought up an impression of his book ; and
 “ is not the third edition upon the title-page a
 “ very good return to it ? Oh ! my dear, there
 “ is no vanity like the vanity of some authors : it
 “ is not to be doubted but if there were multitudes
 “ men enough in the kingdom to add a unit
 “ more to the account of those editions, but we
 “ should find him introducing the alcoran, mak-
 “ ing profelytes from luxury.—— But how
 “ have we wandered from your story—You
 “ are still at Windsor — I long to hear the
 “ rest.”

H E N R I E T T A. 163

“I assure you, my dear,” said miss Courteney, sighing, “I have not been sorry for this little interruption; it has given some relief to my mind; for I know not how it is, but the recollection of this period is painful to me; and yet under the same terrors, and with the same apprehensions, I should certainly act again as I have done. I think I told you that Mr. Danvers went in the coach with my aunt; a circumstance with which I had reason to be rejoiced, as it greatly facilitated my escape: I was still lingering over the tea-table, uncertain in what manner I should perform my little journey, when Mrs. White came into the room: she was apprehensive that I should be uneasy at my aunt’s and the chaplain’s excursion together, as supposing it was to settle something relating to their scheme; and therefore made haste to inform me, that my aunt had been summoned to Richmond, by a message from a Roman catholick friend of her’s, who was dangerously ill there, and desired to see her, together with Mr. Danvers, who was her ghostly father, as they term it.

“Mrs. White continued to talk to me on the subject of my aunt’s design, while I was considering whether it would be proper to make her the confident of my intended flight to London,
“don,

“ don, and engage her to procure me some ve-
 “ hicle to carry me thither. But it was possible
 “ she might not approve of my leaving my aunt
 “ so suddenly, in which case I should find it dif-
 “ ficult to get away: besides, I did not think it
 “ reasonable to involve her in the consequences
 “ of my flight, by making her privy to it; and
 “ that the only way to enable her to justify her-
 “ self to my aunt was not to make her guilty.
 “ I therefore resolved to steal out of the house,
 “ and go as far as I could on foot, not doubt-
 “ ing but chance would throw some carriage in
 “ my way, in which I might finish my journey;
 “ and, to gain all the time I could, I told Mrs.
 “ White, that my anxiety had hindered me from
 “ sleeping all night; that I was not well, and
 “ would go to my chamber and try to get some
 “ repose, desiring her not to disturb me.

“ Having thus got four hours at least before
 “ me, I resolved to write a short letter to my
 “ aunt before I went. In this letter I told her,
 “ that having accidentally discovered her inten-
 “ tion of sending me to a convent abroad, my
 “ terrors of such a confinement had forced me
 “ to throw myself under the protection of Mr.
 “ Bale; that I hoped, through his mediation, to
 “ convince her I had been guilty of no impru-
 “ dences which could merit such severe treat-
 “ ment

“ment as a punishment, and was not so un-
 “settled in my religion as to be perverted by that
 “or any other means. I begged her to believe,
 “that except in that article, and in marrying
 “contrary to my inclinations, I would pay her
 “the same obedience as to a parent; but that I
 “would rather submit to the lowest state of po-
 “verty, than marry a man whom I could nei-
 “ther love or esteem; or change the religion in
 “which I was bred, and with which I was en-
 “tirely satisfied. I concluded with earnestly
 “intreating to be restored to her good opinion,
 “which I assured her I would always endeavour
 “to deserve.

“Having sealed and directed this letter, I put
 “it into one of my dressing-boxes, not doubt-
 “ing but as soon as I was missing, every thing
 “that belonged to me would be searched for
 “letters, in hopes of further discoveries. I next
 “tied up some linen in a handkerchief, and
 “with an aking heart, sallied out of my cham-
 “ber, and crossed a passage-room which had
 “steps leading to the garden. As soon as I had
 “got out of the back-door, which opened into
 “the forest, I concluded myself safe from disco-
 “very, and mended my pace; having no dif-
 “ficulty in finding my way, because I pursued
 “the

“ the road which I had often traversed in a coach
 “ or a chaise.

“ You will easily imagine my mind was full
 “ of melancholy reflections, and indeed so en-
 “ tirely was I engrossed by them for near an hour,
 “ that I did not perceive I was tired, till I grew
 “ so faint I was hardly able to move a step far-
 “ ther. I had now got into the open road, and
 “ it being about the time when I might expect
 “ to see some of the stage-coaches from Wind-
 “ for pass that way, I sat down under the shade
 “ of a large tree, at some distance from the road,
 “ impatiently wishing for the sight. All this
 “ time I had not been alarmed with the fear of
 “ meeting with any insult, for I had seen no
 “ one from whom I could apprehend any such
 “ thing; but I had scarce enjoyed this com-
 “ fortable shelter three minutes, when I per-
 “ ceived two ill looking fellows, as I thought
 “ them, making towards me with all the speed
 “ they were able. I started up in inconceivable
 “ terror, looking round me to see if any help
 “ was near if they should assault me, when I
 “ fortunately discovered the stage-coach; and
 “ being now eased of my fears, I resumed my
 “ station, till it was come near enough for me
 “ to speak to the driver. The two fellows who
 “ had given me such a terrible alarm, stopped
 “ short

“ short upon seeing the coach, and I really believe I had an escape from them.

“ I called out to the coachman as soon as he could hear me. You know, my dear, the difficulties I found in getting admission. Little did those good women, who refused it, imagine that to avoid a slight inconvenience to themselves, they were consigning me over to the greatest distress imaginable.”

“ Wretches !” exclaimed miss Woodby, “ I cannot think of them without detestation ; but, my dear (pursued she) did not you wonder to see a person of any figure in a stage-coach ? As for you, I soon discovered there was something extraordinary in your case : but what did you think of me with such company, and in such an equipage ?”

“ Indeed, my dear,” said miss Courteney, “ at that time a stage-coach appeared to me a most desirable vehicle, and I had not then the least notion of its being a mean one ; so greatly do our opinions of things alter with our circumstances and situations : besides, a difficulty then occurred to my thoughts, which, amidst the hurry and precipitation with which I quitted my aunt’s house, had not been sufficiently attended to before, and that was how I should dispose of myself for a few days, till Mr. Bale’s

“ return ;

“ return; for it was necessary I should conceal
 “ myself with great care, having so much to ap-
 “ prehend from my aunt’s bigotry and preju-
 “ dices, and the (perhaps) interested officiousness
 “ of her chaplain.

“ Under what strange disadvantages had I
 “ lodgings to seek for! by an assumed name,
 “ with an immediate occasion for them; and
 “ no recommendation to any particular house,
 “ which I could be sure was a reputable one.
 “ Your politeness, and the unexpected offer of
 “ your friendship, encouraged me to commu-
 “ nicate my distress to you, and to intreat your
 “ assistance; and I must still regret the unlucky
 “ mistake that brought me hither instead of Mrs.
 “ Egret’s. And now, my dear, you have my
 “ whole story before you. Have I not been
 “ very unfortunate? and am I not in a most
 “ dreadful situation? But what it chiefly con-
 “ cerns me to know, does your judgment acquit
 “ me of imprudence and folly in this precipitate
 “ flight from my aunt, to whom I owed so
 “ many benefits, and on whom I depended for
 “ support?”

“ Approve your flight!” cried miss Woodby;
 “ Yes certainly, child: who would not fly
 “ from a bigot, a priest, and an old hideous
 “ lover?

“lover? I protest I would in your case have
 “done the same thing.” “Well, that is some
 “comfort,” replied miss Courteney; “but
 “every body will not think as you do; and to
 “a mind of any delicacy, f : nothing is so
 “shocking as to have a reputation to defend;
 “and the step I have taken will no doubt expose
 “me to many unfavourable censures.”

“And do you imagine,” said miss Woodby,
 “that with a form so pleasing, and an under-
 “standing so distinguished, you will be exempted
 “from the tax that envy is sure to levy upon
 “merit? Don’t you know what the most sen-
 “sible of all poets says :

“Envy will merit as it’s shade pursue,

“And like a shadow proves the substance
 “true.

“Take my word for it, it is no great compli-
 “ment we pay to persons, when we tell them
 “that all the world speaks well of them; for
 “those who are remarkable for any shining qua-
 “lities will be more envied than admired, and
 “frequently more calumniated than praised.
 “But, child,” pursued the volatile miss Wood-
 “by, assuming a sprightly air, “how do you in-
 “tend to dispose of yourself to-day; it is late :
 “I must go home to dress.”

“Dispose of myself,” repeated miss Courteney, “even in this solitary chamber; for I am determined, since I must stay here a day or two longer, to be as little with my landlady as possible.”

Miss Woodby then fluttered down stairs, followed by her fair friend, who took that opportunity to tell Mrs. Eccles, that she should not leave her so suddenly as she had imagined, which was very agreeable news to the millener; who had no other objection to her beautiful lodger, but her extreme reserve, which did not at all suit her purposes.

C H A P. VIII.

Containing nothing either new or extraordinary.

MISS Courteney, after having traversed her chamber several times in great restlessness of mind, at length resolved to take a hackney coach and drive to Mr. Bale's, supposing she should know from his clerks or servants the exact time when he was expected home; at least they could give her a direction where to write to him, and it would be some comfort to acquaint him with her situation, and have his advice.

She

She had no sooner formed this design than she hastened to put it in execution ; and having made a slight alteration in her dress, she went down to Mrs. Eccles, and desired her to send her maid for a coach, telling her she was obliged to go into the city upon business, and desired her not to wait for her at dinner. Mrs. Eccles insisted upon waiting till four o'clock at least, and attended her to the door, less out of complaisance than to hear where she ordered the coachman to drive ; for the inquietude, irresolution, and pensiveness, which she discovered in her fair lodger, extremely heightened her curiosity to know her affairs.

Henrietta, though she did not suspect the motive of her officiousness, yet not thinking it proper to let her know where she was going, only bid the coachman drive to St. Paul's church-yard, and when there, she gave him a fuller direction. Alas ! sighed she, when the coach stopped before the great gates of her guardian's house, were the hospitable master of this mansion at home, here should I find a secure asylum.

As soon as a servant appeared, she asked if Mr. Bale was at home, that she might with greater propriety introduce her farther enquiries ; but was most agreeably surprised to hear him an-

swer her in the affirmative, while he opened the coach-door: however, she ordered the coachman to wait, and then followed the servant, who introduced her into a large parlour, and retired to acquaint his master with her being there.

Immediately a young gentleman, of an engaging appearance, entered the room, and desired to know her commands. Henrietta seeing, instead of her guardian, a young man whom she was quite a stranger to, blushed at first, but a more painful sense of her disappointment soon spread a paleness over her fair face.

“Is not Mr. Bale at home, sir?” said she, in an accent that shewed her concern, “my business was with him?”

“My father, madam,” said the young gentleman, “is in Holland, from whence I came myself but lately; he has affairs to settle there which will detain him three or four weeks. But cannot I serve you, madam,” added he; his voice becoming insensibly softer while he gazed on a form which it was not possible to behold without some sensibility. “Pray let me know, it will give me great pleasure if I can be in the least degree useful to you.”

“I shall be obliged to you, sir,” replied Miss Courteney, “if you will forward a letter from
“me

“me to Mr. Bale. It is a great unhappiness to
“me that he is abroad at this time : he is my
“guardian, and at present I have need of his
“advice and assistance.”

“Pardon me, madam,” said young Mr. Bale,
“is not your name Courteney.” “It is sir,”
replied she.

“Dear miss,” said he, looking on her with
a tender sympathy ; “I wish my father was at
“home, since you wish so—And yet, perhaps,
“all parents are alike,” added he, after a pause
and sighing, “they are too apt to imagine that
“happiness consists in riches. But are you
“in a place of safety, miss— Are you sure
“you are in no danger of being discovered ? I
“wish it was in my power to offer you an asy-
“lum—but—”

“Bless me, sir ! interrupted Henrietta, in
great astonishment, “you seem to be perfectly
“well acquainted with my situation.”

“Yes, madam,” said Mr. Bale, “I know
“something of your affairs, and from my soul I
“approve of your courage and resolution. A
“gentleman, named Danvers, was here yester-
“day to enquire for you ; your aunt’s chaplain,
“is he not ?”

“Yes, sir,” replied miss Courteney, “and
“my persecutor—but what did he say ? I

“suppose he represented me in strange colours.”

“You need only to be seen, madam,” said Mr. Bale, “to undeceive the most prejudiced: yet what he said was not disadvantageous to you, unless,” added he, with a soft smile, “you think it a fault to have a tender heart.”

“Ah! the wretch,” interrupted miss Courteney, not able to contain her indignation; “I see he has been propagating falsehoods injurious to my reputation; after having poisoned the mind of my aunt with suspicions that were the cause of my losing her affection, he is endeavouring to deprive me of every friend I have in the world— But this, sir, is the plain truth: he suggested, as I have no reason to doubt, a preposterous match for me to my aunt; I rejected it; he found means to persuade my aunt, that I listened privately to the addresses of some man who was an improper match for me. My aunt, in order to prevent my ruin, as she supposed, insisted upon my accepting the husband she had chosen for me; and, upon my obstinate refusal, was prevailed upon by her chaplain to resolve to confine me in a nunnery abroad. I had intelligence of this design, and I secretly left my aunt’s house, to prevent her executing it; but I

“am

“ am so far from having any secret engage-
 “ ment, that if I could be sure my aunt would
 “ not pursue her scheme of entrapping me in
 “ a convent, I would instantly return and bind
 “ myself by the most solemn oaths never to
 “ marry any one whom she does not approve.

“ You see, sir,” proceeded miss Courteney,
 “ what need I have of your father’s assistance ;
 “ he is my only friend and protector ; through
 “ his mediation I might expect to be restored to
 “ the good opinion of my aunt.”

“ Well, madam,” said Mr. Bale, “ if you
 “ will write to him, I will take care of your
 “ letter ; and if it be ready to-morrow, I will
 “ attend you myself for it ; I hope you have no
 “ objection to my knowing where you are : in
 “ my father’s absence I shall be proud to act as
 “ your guardian ; though he has had the hap-
 “ piness of knowing you longer, yet his con-
 “ cern for your interest cannot be greater than
 “ mine. Shall I wait on you to-morrow morn-
 “ ing, miss ?” added he. Henrietta, by his
 manner of urging this request, and his fre-
 quently casting his eye towards the door, as
 if afraid of some interruption, concluding that
 she detained him from business of more im-
 portance, rose up immediately, and, giving
 him a direction to her lodgings by the name

of Benson, told him, she would have her letter ready ; but asked if it would not come safe inclosed to him by the penny-post, being unwilling, she said, to give him the trouble of coming for it.

“ I beg, madam,” said he, as he took her hand to lead her to the coach, “ that you will “ believe I can have no greater pleasure than “ that of serving you. It is necessary that I “ should have an opportunity of talking to you “ at leisure, that I may know how I can be farther useful to you.”

Having helped her into the coach, he bowed low, and retired hastily, with such an expression of tender concern on his countenance as any woman, less free from vanity than miss Courteney, would not have failed to observe ; but she making no other reflections on his behaviour, than that he was more polite than persons usually are who are bred up to business, congratulated herself on having found a friend, through whom she could securely correspond with her guardian, and receive his advice, so that she might now consider herself as being under his immediate care and direction, though absent ; a circumstance that greatly alleviated her uneasiness.

Mrs. Eccles, who had waited dinner for her longer than had been agreed on, expressed great
plea-

pleasure at seeing her look so chearful. "To
 " be sure (said she) you have heard some unex-
 " pected good news, I am heartily glad of it—
 " Well, now I hope you will have more spirits."
 Henrietta smiled, but made no answer; for an
 ingenuous mind can only evade indiscreet curio-
 sity by silence.

The cloth was scarce removed, when the
 young lord, who had now taken possession of his
 apartment in Mrs. Eccles's house, came into the
 parlour. Henrietta immediately rose up to re-
 tire to her own chamber, when he starting back,
 and standing at the door as if to obstruct her
 passage, "I came (said he) Mrs. Eccles, to beg
 " you would make me a dish of coffee; but since
 " my presence drives this young lady away, I
 " will go up stairs again."

"Oh, by no means, my lord," said Mrs.
 Eccles, "I am sure miss Benson will not let you
 " think so. You are not going, miss, are you?"
 added she, turning to Henrietta.

"I have letters to write," said the young lady,
 "that will take me up the whole afternoon."

"Well," said my lord, "I will drink no
 " coffee then; for unless you stay, miss, I shall
 " be persuaded that my coming has driven you
 " away. Let me intreat you," pursued he,
 entering and leading her to a chair, "to allow

“ me the pleasure of drinking a dish of coffee
 “ with you ; you will have time enough after-
 “ wards to write your letters.”

Miss Courteney, who was willing to avoid the appearance of singularity, sat down again, tho' with some reluctance, telling his lordship that she would not be the means of disappointing him of his coffee ; but that she must insist upon being permitted to withdraw in half an hour, having business of consequence upon her hands.

The young nobleman gave little attention to what she said, but gazed on her with an earnestness that threw her into some confusion. The milliner going out of the room to give orders about the coffee, he began in most vehement language to declare a passion for her, and called in the assistance of poetry, to express his admiration of her charms.

Henrietta, who in her own character would have treated this manner of address with ridicule and contempt, thought it became her, in her present circumstances, to resent it seriously ; therefore rising, with some signs of indignation, she told him, that since his lordship thought proper to entertain her with such kind of discourse, she would immediately retire. My lord, who saw she was angry in good earnest, was excessively afraid of her leaving him ; there-
 fore

fore taking her hand, which he forcibly held, till he had sealed a vow upon it with his lips, that he would not say another word to offend her, he brought her back to her seat, which, upon seeing Mrs. Eccles enter, she resumed.

The conversation then took another turn; but Henrietta was too much chagrined to mix in it with any degree of chearfulness: besides, the party seemed to her to be but ill assorted, a nobleman, a milliner, and a young woman in obscure circumstances. Her delicacy was shocked, and all the politeness she was mistress of was scarce sufficient to hinder her from shewing how much she was displeased with herself and her company.

As soon as the tea-equipage was removed, she looked at her watch; and seeming apprehensive that she should not have time enough to write her letters, she withdrew with such precipitation, that they had no opportunity to solicit her longer stay.

“This is a strange girl,” said the young lord, throwing himself into his chair, from whence he had risen to return the hasty compliment she made at her departure, “but divinely handsome; who can she be? I vow to Gad I believe I shall be in love with her in earnest: have you made no discovery yet, Mrs. Eccles,” pur-

sued he ; “ there is certainly some mystery in
 “ the case, and a love-mystery it must be ; for
 “ women are not even faithful to their own se-
 “ crets, unless an amour is the business, and
 “ then they are impenetrable.”

“ Your lordship may be sure,” said Mrs. Ec-
 cles, “ that I have spared no pains to discover
 “ who she is ; but she is excessively reserved,
 “ and talks so little, that there is no probability
 “ of intrapping her : yet, I think there is one
 “ way, by which your curiosity may be satisfied.
 “ Your lordship has seen a gay flighty lady with
 “ her, of whom she is very fond.”

“ What, that ugly creature !” said my lord,
 “ that fastened upon me in your shop ; do you
 “ mean her ? is miss Benson fond of that thing ?”

“ Oh ! very fond,” replied Mrs. Eccles.
 “ They were shut up together four hours this
 “ very morning.”

“ Then depend upon it she is the confident,”
 said his lordship. “ Oh ! I guess your scheme ;
 “ you would have me bribe her.”

“ Bribe her, my lord,” repeated Mrs. Ec-
 cles ; “ she seems to be a woman of some
 “ fashion. I dare say you would affront her
 “ extremely, by offering her a bribe.”

“ I am very sure,” interrupted his lordship,
 “ that she will not be able to resist the bribe I shall
 “ offer

“offer her : I will flatter her, my dear Mrs. Eccles, till I not only become master of all her friend’s secrets, but even her own ; but how shall I get an opportunity of talking to her alone ?”

“ I will engage,” said Mrs. Eccles, “ that it will not be long before she is here again ; and, if your lordship should happen to be below when she comes, I fancy you would not find it difficult to detain her a little while from her friend.”

“ Well,” said my lord, “ I leave it to you to manage this interview for me : when I know who this miss Benson is, I can make my approaches accordingly ; but when do you expect her down stairs again ?” “ Not till supper-time,” said Mrs. Eccles ; “ she is never weary of being alone.” “ Ah, that is a bad sign !” said he, “ I doubt I have a rival—Well I will look in upon you at ten o’clock ; perhaps I may find her with you.”

Mrs. Eccles assuring him she would engage her till that time, if possible. He went away humming an opera-air, but with less vacuity of thought than usual, miss Benson being so much in his head, that, if he had been accustomed to reflexion, he would have concluded she was in his heart also, and that he was in love with her in earnest.

Henrietta in the mean time was employed in writing her letter to Mr. Bale, to whom she gave a faithful account of all that had happened to her, and earnestly intreated his good offices towards effecting a reconciliation between her aunt and her. The inconveniencies she saw herself exposed to in her present situation made her so desirous of this happy event, that her letter was almost a continued repetition of solicitations for that purpose. She begged him, in case he did not return to England, to write to her aunt, and endeavour to soften her, assuring him that she pretended to no greater liberty than what an obedient daughter might expect from a parent; being resolved to obey her will in every thing, provided she might not be compelled to marry the old baronet, nor confined in a nunnery with a view to the change of her religion.

She expressed her satisfaction in the polite behaviour of his son to her, whom she would consider, she said, as her guardian in his absence, and would take no step without his advice and concurrence.

She had finished her letter long before the milliner's usual hour of supper; but being resolved to go down no more that evening, she spread letters and papers upon the table, as if she still continued extremely busy. Mrs. Eccles,

upon entering her chamber to know if she was ready for supper, found her with the pen still in her hand ; and was a good deal mortified to hear her say, That, having dined so late, she would not sup that night, but would finish her letters before she went to bed.

Mrs. Eccles did not think proper to press her ; for her extreme reserve inspired her with a kind of awe, that made her cautious of giving her the least disgust ; and Henrietta taking leave of her at her chamber-door for the night, she went away in great concern for the disappointment his lordship would meet with.

It was indeed a very mortifying disappointment to him ; for his impatience to see miss Courteney had brought him back much sooner than he had intended, and Mrs. Eccles, when she came down stairs, found him already in her parlour. When he heard the young lady's resolution, not to appear again that night, he took an uncere- monious leave of his complaisant landlady, and joined his company again at White's, wonder- ing to find himself in so ill an humour, on so slight an occasion, and that dice and Burgundy were scarce sufficient to call off his thoughts from this coy unknown, whom yet he did not despair of gaining.

C H A P. IX.

A very short chapter.

HEnrietta, upon her coming down next morning to breakfast, was informed by Mrs. Eccles, that a gentleman had been enquiring for her that morning; but, hearing she was not up, had left word that he would call again. She did not doubt but it was Mr. Bale, and was a little confused that his punctuality should so much exceed her's in an affair that immediately concerned her; but the truth was, the young merchant's impatience to see her had outstripped time, and he came much earlier than she had reason to expect him.

She retired immediately after breakfast, desiring that the gentleman might be shewn up stairs when he came again; for Mrs. Eccles, at her request, had made a small alteration in her apartment, and put her bed in an adjoining closet, that she might with more propriety receive a visit in her own room.

She was scarce got up stairs, when Mr. Bale was introduced: she apologised for the trouble he had in calling twice; and delivering him her letter,

letter, recommended it to his care with extreme earnestness, assuring him, she should be very unhappy till she had an answer. She then enquired more particularly concerning the visit Mr. Danvers had made him, anxious to collect from what he said what impression her flight had made upon her aunt.

“ I will not flatter you, miss,” said Mr. Bale.
 “ Lady Meadows is extremely enraged—Mr.
 “ Danvers mentioned nothing of a design to
 “ put you into a convent; but owned that your
 “ aunt had a very advantageous match in view
 “ for you, which you rejected—and—”

“ Pray go on, sir,” said Henrietta, observing that he hesitated.

“ Your aunt will have it,” madam, pursued he, “ that your affections are engaged—I cannot believe that a young lady of your good
 “ sense would make an improper choice—I
 “ should be very glad to be able to convince my
 “ father that nothing of this kind is the case—
 “ Excuse me, miss, I am very anxious for your
 “ happiness; it would give me infinite joy to find
 “ that your aunt is mistaken.”

“ My aunt has no reason, sir, for her suspicions,” replied Henrietta; “ but if my affections were engaged, why should she think I
 “ had

“had made an improper choice?” “Ah! miss..” eagerly interrupted Mr. Bale.

“I hope, sir,” said miss Courteney, gravely, “you will believe me, when I declare that my aunt’s fears are without foundation: it concerns me greatly that your father should not entertain the same idle suspicions; and, were he here, I am sure I could convince him.”

“Dear miss,” interrupted Mr. Bale, “I cannot suffer you to go on; do not imagine that I am not convinced. I had doubts, but you will excuse them; my great concern for your happiness was the cause—Rely upon me, I beg you; I will take care my father shall not be prejudiced, and till his return I am your guardian.”

Henrietta, upon a little reflection, was more pleased than offended at the doubts he so candidly acknowledged; in so young a man, such plainness and sincerity were far more agreeable than the refinements of compliment and flattery, and more suitable to the character in which he desired to be considered, and in which she did consider him. She thanked him for a solicitude, which she said was so advantageous to her; and to shew him that she wished to give him all imaginable satisfaction with regard to her

her conduct, she entered into a particular detail of the situation she had been in with her aunt, whose views with regard to her, she explained: she slightly touched upon the character of the chaplain, and imputed to his great influence over her aunt, the rash and severe resolutions she had taken against her.

She was proceeding to justify herself for having left her aunt's house; when Mr. Bale interrupted her with some emotion: "every reasonable person, miss (said he) that knows your motives for taking this step, will not only hold you excused, but will even applaud you for not sacrificing yourself to riches."

"I am sure," said Henrietta, "my aunt would hear reason, were it not for that invincible chaplain, who fills her with suspicions, and animates her resentment. Oh, that Mr. Bale was come!"

"I hope," said the young merchant, "that we shall see him shortly; but in the mean time, miss, let me know how I can be useful to you: do you like your present lodgings? are the people such as you approve? Let me know if you have any inclination to remove, and I will endeavour to settle you some-where that will be agreeable to my father; I suppose
"you

“ you would have no objection to lodging with
 “ an acquaintance of his, and where you will
 “ be near him.”

“ No, certainly,” said miss Courteney, “ it
 “ would be highly agreeable to me.” “ Well,
 “ miss,” said Mr. Bale, rising, “ I will wait on
 “ you again in a day or two : but perhaps you
 “ have occasion for money, I have brought
 “ some with me ; pray do not put yourself to
 “ any inconveniency, but draw for what sums
 “ you have occasion.”

“ The trifle, sir,” said Henrietta, blushing,
 “ that is in your father’s hands, will not admit
 “ of my drawing very largely ; however, I will
 “ venture to take up twenty pounds, because I
 “ have occasion to purchase some trifling things ;
 “ for all my cloaths are at my aunt’s, and I am
 “ in great hopes she will not send them after
 “ me : that would look indeed,” said she, sigh-
 “ ing, “ as if I must never expect to return a-
 “ gain ; and I am resolved not to send for them,
 “ that it may appear I do expect and wish
 “ it.”

Mr. Bale, upon hearing this, pressed her to
 take forty guineas ; but she said, twenty would
 do, having some money by her. He then took
 leave of her, with a promise to see her again
 soon ; and left her greatly pleased with his friend-
 ly

ly behaviour, and with the prospect of being soon with persons less obnoxious to her than Mrs. Eccles.

She had scarcely deposited her money in her desk, when miss Woodby bolted into the room with her usual robust liveliness. Indeed her spirits were particularly exhilarated that day, having had the dear delight of conversing an whole hour with a beau, who said the civilest things to her imaginable; a piece of good fortune she did not often meet with, and for which, though her vanity did not suffer her to find it out, she was wholly indebted to her fair friend, the beau being no other than the young lord who lodged in the house, with whom she had been engaged in conversation great part of the time that Mr. Bale was with miss Courteney. And if the reader is curious to know what passed between them, he will be fully informed in the next chapter.

C H A P. X.

*Which gives the reader a specimen of female
friendship.*

M R. Bale had been about half an hour with miss Courteney, when miss Woodby came to pay her a morning visit. As soon as Mrs. Eccles saw a chair set her down at the door, she flew up stairs to acquaint her noble lodger with her arrival; he instantly followed her down, and, meeting miss Woodby at the bottom of the stairs, affected a joyful surprise at his good fortune in seeing her so unexpectedly again.

“The lady you are going to visit,” said he, “is engaged with company, I believe; but I am resolved you shall not go away,” pursued he, taking her hand and leading her into the parlour, “I was so charmed with your conversation the first time I saw you, that it is not probable I will lose this opportunity of renewing our acquaintance.”

“Oh! your lordship is very obliging,” said miss Woodby, suffering herself to be led into the parlour, while her transport at finding herself

self treated with so much gallantry, and her passionate desire of pleasing, threw her into such ridiculous affectation, that every limb and feature was distorted. Compliment, to which she was very little used, acted like strong liquors upon a weak head, she became so intoxicated that she hardly knew what she did, which, joined to a natural awkwardness, produced the most absurd blunders in her behaviour; so that, endeavouring to trip with a lively motion to her seat, she overturned a light mahogany table that was in her way, and heard the crash of the china that was on it with very little emotion: the pleasure of shewing herself to the greatest advantage, absolutely engrossing her; and so unseasonably did she return his lordship's polite bow, when he had seated her in her chair, that their foreheads struck against each other with a force like the concussion of two rocks; but this accident, no more than the former, disturbed miss Woodby's enjoyment of her present happiness; and, wholly insensible to the pain of her forehead, she immediately entered into conversation with his lordship, asking him, with the liveliest air imaginable, if he had been at Ranelagh last night; never once making the least reflection upon what he had told her of her friend's being engaged with company, which,

as she knew her situation, might well have raised her curiosity.

The beau told her, he was not there ; “ but “ you and miss Benson were, I suppose,” added he.

“ Now your lordship mentions miss Benson,” said she (without answering his question) “ pray tell me how you like her ; is she not very “ handsome ? ”

“ Yes,” replied my lord, “ she is handsome ; “ but,” added he, looking full at her, “ she “ wants a certain lady’s agreeable vivacity.”

“ Oh ! your servant, my lord,” said miss Woodby, making the application immediately ; “ but really, as your lordship observes, she “ wants vivacity ; there is something heavy and “ lumpish in her.”

“ Yet she is genteel,” said my lord. “ Oh ! “ extremely genteel,” cried miss Woodby ; “ but does not your lordship think she is rather “ too tall ? being so slender as she is, does not “ that height give her a certain awkwardness ? -- “ But I really think she has one of the finest “ complexions in the world ! ”

“ Has she not rather too much bloom,” said my lord. “ Why, yes,” replied miss Woodby, “ I think her complexion wants delicacy ; but “ no

"no objection can be made to her eyes, you must own, except that they are rather too large, and roll about heavily."

"Upon the whole," said my lord, "miss Benson is tolerable; but I perceive you are extremely fond of her by your partiality."

"Oh, my lord," said miss Woodby, "we are the greatest friends in the world; I conceived a violent friendship for her the first moment I saw her— You cannot imagine how ardent my friendships are."

"That is bad news for your lover," said my lord; "for, love and friendship (the wise say) exclude each other; but I hope miss Benson makes a proper return to so much affection."

"Oh! we are united in the strongest bands of friendship," said miss Woodby; "the dear creature has not a thought that she conceals from me: and though I have not been acquainted with her a week, she has intrusted me with all her affairs."

"Indeed!" said my lord, "not acquainted a week, and so communicative: are you sure, my dear miss Woodby, that this young lady is not a little silly."

“ I cannot say,” replied miss Woodby,
 “ that her understanding is the best in the
 “ world ; but she has a very good heart.”

“ Your own is very good, I do not doubt,”
 said my lord, “ which leads you to make so fa-
 “ vourable a judgment of another’s—However,
 “ as she has laid open her affairs to you, you
 “ may, from the conduct she has avowed, col-
 “ lect your opinion of her.”

“ Very true,” said miss Woodby ; “ and I
 “ do assure your lordship, that I cannot help ap-
 “ proving of her conduct, because her motives
 “ were certainly just : though the ill-judging
 “ world may perhaps condemn her for running
 “ away from her aunt ; and, from her hiding
 “ herself in a lodging, assuming another name,
 “ and such little circumstances, may take occa-
 “ sion to censure her, yet I am persuaded in my
 “ own mind that she is blameless.”

“ Benson is not her name then,” said my
 lord, affecting great indifference. “ Oh, no
 “ my lord,” said miss Woodby, “ her name is
 “ Courteney.— But bless me—what have
 “ done ! I hope, my lord, you will be secret
 “ I did not intend to tell your lordship mi-
 “ Benson’s true name— I would not for the
 “ world violate that friendship I have vow-
 “ ed to her.”

“ D

“Depend upon it, madam;” said my lord,
 “I will be secret as the grave. It is of no con-
 “sequence to me to know her name; I shall
 “never think of it again— But to be sure
 “the poor girl is to be pitied— And so she
 “ran away from her aunt; who is her aunt,
 “pray?”

“Her aunt’s name is Meadows,” said miss
 Woodby, “lady Meadows; do you know
 “her?”

“Not I,” said my lord, throwing himself
 into a careless posture, and humming an air as
 if his attention was wholly disengaged; when
 suddenly turning again to miss Woodby with a
 smile——

“Why (said he) should not you and I be as
 “good friends as miss Benson and you are;
 “our acquaintance is not of a much shorter
 “date, and perhaps commenced nearly in the
 “same manner?”

“I protest,” said miss Woodby, “and so it
 “did; for I first saw your lordship in Mrs. Ec-
 “cles’s shop, and I happened to meet miss
 “Benson in a stage-coach about four days
 “ago.”

“And there your acquaintance began?” said
 my lord; “you have improved it well since,
 “if she has really been ingenuous enough to let

“you into the true state of her affairs. I suppose there is a lover in the case.”

“A lover there certainly is,” said miss Woodby; “but he was of her aunt’s chusing; and it is from this lover she fled.”

“O brave girl!” said my lord; “but is she not fled to a lover of her own chusing?” “No, I believe not,” said miss Woodby.

“Well,” said my lord, “I fancy she has deceived you, and that the gentleman who is with her now is her lover; he is a plain sort of man, Mrs. Eccles says, and looks like a merchant.”

“Oh!” said miss Woodby, “it is Mr. Bale her guardian, I suppose.” “But this is a young man,” said my lord. “Then perhaps it is her brother,” said miss Woodby, “who was abroad with a nobleman, and is now returned.”

“I think I hear him coming down stairs,” said my lord, “I have a mind to see him, as he goes out.” Saying this, he bowed and ran into the shop, leaving miss Woodby a little confused at his abrupt departure; and now, for the first time, she reflected that she had been indiscreet, and revealed too much of her friend’s situation: but being incapable of taking any great interest in the concerns of another, she thought

Mr. Bale asked her pardon for not having consulted her before on that subject; but said, that by still continuing the name of Benson, she would be more secure from the search her aunt might make for her.

Alas! sir," said miss Courteney, "I am afraid my aunt is too much offended to be at any pains to find me out—I am more apprehensive of the contrivances of Mr. Davies; he no doubt has strong reasons for putting her upon such harsh measures. While I was alone and unprotected, I thought it necessary to conceal myself, since it was not impossible but I might have been forced away; but I am sure no such attempt will be made, when it is known that I am under my guardian's protection. I think therefore this gentleman ought to be acquainted with my name. I would avoid as much as possible the appearance of mystery. I shall never recollect, without pain, the sad necessity that has reduced me to it."

"It will not be prudent," said Mr. Bale, "to alter our measures now: I have called you miss Benson; the discovery of your true name will come with more propriety from my father, when he has accommodated matters between your aunt and you: we may expect a letter

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“from him in a day or two, in which he will
 “probably fix the time of his return. In the
 “mean while I hope you will find yourself
 “agreeably situated here—I have agreed for
 “your board and lodging.”

“At a moderate price, I hope,” said miss Courteney, “my circumstances do not entitle
 “me to great expence.” “I have taken care of
 “that,” said Mr. Bale. Mrs. Willis coming
 in that moment, he recommended miss Courteney to her care, promising, when he heard
 from his father, to come immediately with the
 news. He then took his leave, and Mrs. Willis
 conducted her fair lodger to another parlour,
 where the cloth was laid for dinner, and introduced two pretty children to her, a boy and a
 girl, with whom the young lady was extremely
 pleased.

There was in the countenance of this woman
 so much sweetness and complacency, and such
 an unaffected politeness in her behaviour, that
 Henrietta found herself insensibly disposed to like
 her, and was pleased to hear her fall naturally
 into an account of herself with a frankness and
 simplicity that denoted the goodness of her heart.

From what she said, miss Courteney collected that she had made a marriage of choice
 rather than of prudence, and that industry had
 sup

supplied the place of fortune: She found she was under great obligations to the elder Mr. Bale, who had settled her husband in an advantageous way at Leghorn, where he acted as his factor, and had enabled her to furnish that large house, in a very genteel manner, for the reception of such merchants as came from abroad, and were by him recommended to lodge with her. Her extreme tenderness for her husband, which had hurried her to Leghorn upon hearing that he was ill, that she might have the satisfaction of attending him herself, and her anxiety for her children, which brought her back as soon as he was recovered, that she might re-assume her care of them, were qualities which won her the esteem of miss Courteney. She marked with what becoming reserve she slightly touched upon her family and connections, which were very genteel, and by which Henrietta accounted for the easy politeness of her manners and behaviour, so seldom found in persons of her rank.

The young lady then turned the discourse upon her guardian's son, whose character she was desirous of being acquainted with. Mrs. Willis told her, that he was a sober diligent young man, and though the heir of immense riches, yet applied himself to business with as much industry as if he had had his fortune to

make : that he had for several years transacted his father's business in Holland, from whence he was but lately returned ; and that he traded largely for himself.

“ Before I went to Leghorn (added she) there
 “ was some talk of his being to be married to
 “ the daughter of a very rich citizen ; but since
 “ my return, which was about a week ago,
 “ I have heard nothing of it, not having seen
 “ Mr. Bale till the day that he came to tell me
 “ I should be so happy as to have you, madam,
 “ for my lodger.”

Miss Courteney having passed this day more agreeably than she had done any since she had left her aunt, was at night conducted by Mrs. Willis to a genteel apartment, consisting of a bed-chamber and dressing-room. She dismissed the maid whom Mrs. Willis ordered to attend and undress her ; and being greatly fatigued for want of rest the preceding night, lost all her cares, her anxieties, and resentments, in the sweet oblivion of a calm and uninterrupted sleep.

C H A P. XIII.

The history still advances.

HEnrietta, though an early riser, and though she rose next morning earlier than usual, yet found, upon her going down, Mrs. Willis had waited breakfast for her some time.

As soon as the tea-equipage was removed, she retired to leave Mrs. Willis at liberty to go about her domestick affairs ; and, when alone, was again assaulted with all those cruel reflections which had almost incessantly filled her mind since her flight from her aunt. Among these, miss Woodby's treachery suggested none of the least painful : she was ashamed of her credulity, of her ill-placed confidence ; indignation for the shocking treatment she had met with from her succeeded. She was upon the point of sitting down to write to her, and to express the deepest resentment of her malice and treachery ; when, recollecting the extreme levity of that young woman's temper, her ridiculous affectation, her folly, and insensibility, she thought it would ill become her to make serious remonstrances to one who only merited con-

tempt; that by taking no further notice of her, that contempt would be best expressed, and her own consciouſness of the part she had acted would account for it.

While she was thus ruminating, Mrs. Willis's maid introduced two porters bringing in a large trunk to her apartment. They delivered her the key sealed up, and a letter from Mr. Bale, in which he informed her, he would wait on her that afternoon.

She opened the trunk trembling; it contained all her cloaths, linen, and all the trinkets her aunt had given her. She searched eagerly in it to see if there was a letter for her; but finding none, she threw herself into a chair, and burst into a flood of tears.

While her aunt retained her cloaths, she had formed a feeble hope that she was anxious for her return, and would facilitate it, by assuring Mr. Bale, that she would no more press her to the hated marriage, nor think of confining her in a convent; but now what could she conclude, but that she had abandoned her for ever, and that a reconciliation was not to be expected. The most gloomy prospects offered themselves to her view, poverty, dependence, neglect; but what was worse than all, the loss perhaps of reputation. How should she be able to excuse herself

herself to the world for her late action? the world which judges actions only by their success: and when it beheld her unhappy and reduced to indigence, would not fail to conclude her guilty.

In these melancholy apprehensions did she wear away the hours till summoned to dinner by Mrs. Willis, who, with tender concern, perceived that she was afflicted, but would not discover that she perceived it; and used her utmost endeavours to amuse her, yet without any apparent solicitude, lest it should alarm her sensibility with a fear that her uneasiness was observed.

Mr. Bale came according to his promise in the afternoon: his arrival gave almost as much satisfaction to Mrs. Willis, as to her fair anxious lodger, from a hope that it would produce some comfort to her. The young merchant instantly discovered that Henrietta had been weeping; and, as soon as Mrs. Willis withdrew, he tenderly approached her, and taking her hand, asked her if any thing new had happened to give her disturbance? Henrietta replied with a hasty question, "Have you any message for me from my aunt, sir?"

"I cannot say I have a message for you, miss," answered Mr. Bale; "your aunt has indeed

“wrote to me.” “May I not see her letter?” asked miss Courteney again, eagerly. “To be sure,” said he, taking it out of his pocket, and presenting it to her, “I wish it was conveyed in more favourable terms.” Miss Courteney read it trembling, and found it as follows :

‘S I R,

‘I HAVE given directions that every thing which belongs to that unhappy girl my niece should be sent to you, that if you know where she is, they may be conveyed to her. She has, by her scandalously running away from me, ruined her own character, and brought aspersions upon mine; since even those who condemn her most, will likewise blame me, as if I had acted unkindly towards her.

‘May the loss of my affection be the least of her misfortunes; though the worst that can possibly happen are likely to be the punishment of her ingratitude and folly.’

Henrietta returned the letter to Mr. Bale with a sigh. “I have indeed (said she) irrecoverably lost her affection: but, sir, it is fit my aunt should know where I am, and that I solicited your protection as soon as I could. This will

“pre-

“preserve me from some of those unfavourable
“suspensions which she mentions so severely. I
“will write to her instantly.”

“Oh! no, by no means,” said Mr. Bale,
“I think it will be best for me to make a visit to
“lady Meadows, and tell her, that you are under
“my care, and that I have placed you here.”

“And will you take the trouble to go to
Windfor, sir,” said miss Courteney, extremely
delighted with this expedient. “I would go any
“where,” said Mr. Bale, “to serve you. Pray
“make yourself easy.”

“I shall be easier,” said miss Courteney,
“when my aunt knows that this scandalous run-
“away is under proper protection, and is ac-
“countable for all her actions to your father.
“Perhaps she may relent when she is convinced
“I am not so indiscreet as she imagined, and
“that I had no other motive for leaving her but
“the fear of being confined in a convent. If you
“find my aunt absolutely resolved not to be re-
“conciled to me, I must then consider how to
“dispose of myself in a way more suitable to my
“circumstances.”

“Remember, miss,” said Mr. Bale, with some
emotion, “that you are under my care—I hope
“you will take no resolutions without acquaint-
“ing me.” “No, certainly,” replied Hen-

rietta— “but, sir, I have no fortune; I am
 “lodged, attended, and treated, as if I had a
 “very considerable one. This expence I shall
 “not be willing to support a great while longer,
 “it will break in too much upon that trifling
 “sum, which was put into your father’s hands,
 “for my brother’s use as well as mine. Heaven
 “knows (said she, sighing) whether he is alive;
 “if he is, he will probably need it; if he is not,
 “it will go but a very little way in supporting
 “me in the manner in which I now live.”

While Henrietta was speaking in this manner, Mr. Bale seemed ready to interrupt her several times, but checked himself as if upon better recollection; when she was silent, he walked about the room, musing; then suddenly turning towards her,

“These considerations, miss (said he) ought
 “at least to be postponed till my father’s return,
 “and I think you may rely upon his prudence:
 “he will certainly take care that your expences
 “shall not exceed your income; in placing you
 “here, I have done what I thought would be
 “agreeable to him.”

Henrietta, observing that he was in some confusion, was concerned that she had spoke so freely, being apprehensive that he understood what she had said as a distrust of his prudence. She there-
 fore

fore told him, that if he found her aunt implacable, she would be extremely well satisfied to continue with Mrs. Willis as long as Mr. Bale should think it necessary.

This assurance satisfied the young merchant, who left her with a promise to see lady Meadows the next day, and to wait on her as soon as possible, with an account of the success of his visit.

She passed this interval in a state of anxiety and suspense, that doubled every hour. As soon as she saw Mr. Bale again, she endeavoured to read in his countenance, before he spoke, the news he had brought her.

“ Well, miss (said he) I have seen your aunt.” He paused; and Henrietta, in a faltering accent, begged him to tell her in one word, whether he had succeeded or not?

“ Indeed I have not (said he) lady Meadows seems resolved never to forgive you for running away from her; but don’t despair, my father may have more weight with her.” “ It is at least some comfort (said she) that she knows I am under your protection.” “ I have a letter from my father,” said Mr. Bale, “ he has got the gout in his right hand; he dictated it to one of his clerks, and therefore speaks with reserve of you. He desires me to tell you, that he hopes to be in London in

“ three weeks at farthest, when he will use his
“ utmost endeavours to reconcile you to your
“ aunt; and, in the mean time, recommends
“ you most affectionately to my care.”

This account of her guardian's kind concern for her, gave some relief to the depressed spirits of miss Courteney, who, although she had not flattered herself with any hope from the young merchant's mediation with her aunt, was as much shocked at the confirmation of her continued displeasure, as if she had not expected it. However, she expressed a grateful sense of his services, and disposed herself to wait with patience for the arrival of Mr. Bale, who alone could determine her destiny.

C H A P. XIV.

Containing several mysterious circumstances.

Henrietta had been about a fortnight in the house of Mrs. Willis, whose good sense and polite behaviour had entirely won her esteem, when, on a sudden, she became reserved and thoughtful, and often failed in those little attentions which mark respect, and an extreme willingness to oblige. She, who had avoided the least appearance of curiosity to know more of her affairs than what she pleased to disclose, now asked questions with an inquisitive air, and seemed to seek for occasions of collecting a fuller knowledge of her from her conversation.

Henrietta had insisted upon her being made acquainted with her true name and circumstances, from the time that Mr. Bale had acknowledged to her aunt that she was under his care, which had produced no other alteration in Mrs. Willis than rather an increase of respect towards her, which she conceived due to her birth.

The young lady, whose extreme sensibility was not the least of her misfortunes, observed her in-

increasing coldness, and suffered great uneasiness. She had willingly indulged a tenderness and esteem for her ; and was concerned to find from her altered behaviour, that either she had failed in her endeavours to acquire the friendship of Mrs. Willis, or that the woman whom she had conceived so good an opinion of, was in reality not deserving of hers.

However, she was determined not to let Mr. Bale perceive that she was dissatisfied with her behaviour ; and she continued to live with her in the same easy manner as formerly, notwithstanding the coldness and constraint with which she was now treated.

Mr. Bale scarce ever failed to call and see her once a day ; but one day he returned about an hour after he had been with her, and told her he had just received letters from his father, in which he acquainted him that Mrs. Willis would in a few days have several foreign merchants in her house, whom he had recommended to lodge with her ; and that, his stay in Holland being protracted for some time longer, he thought it would not be proper for miss Courteney to reside with Mrs. Willis till his return, as her house would be full of men.

“My father,” added Mr. Bale, “desires me to ask you, miss, whether you have any objection
“to

“ to go into the country for a few weeks. He
 “ has a distant relation, a widow, who lives at
 “ Hampstead, with whom he says he will be glad
 “ to find you at his return; he begs you will
 “ excuse his not writing to you, having the gout
 “ still in his hand, and desires me to assure you
 “ of his tenderest concern for your welfare.”

A week before, Henrietta would have thought
 it a misfortune to have left Mrs. Willis to go
 into any other lodging; but she was so piqued
 by her behaviour, that she heard this news
 without any uneasiness, and told Mr. Bale she
 would implicitly follow her guardian's direc-
 tions.

He said he would conduct her to his cousin's
 himself; and took leave of her, after he had de-
 sired her to be ready for her little journey the
 next day.

Mrs. Willis came up to her apartment soon
 after Mr. Bale went away. “ I hear I am soon
 “ to lose you, miss,” said she, entering. “ Yes,”
 replied miss Courteney coolly, “ such is my
 “ guardian's pleasure; but,” added she smiling,
 “ you will not miss me; you will have other
 “ company.” “ Other company!” repeated
 Mrs. Willis.

“ Mr. Bale tells me,” said miss Courteney,
 “ that your house will be full soon; some gen-
 “ tlemen

“ tlemen recommended by his father will be here.”

“ It is strange,” said Mrs. Willis, “ that I should know nothing of it ; have you had a letter from your guardian, miss ? ”

“ No,” replied miss Courteney ; “ but his son has heard from him—But,” pursued she, after a little pause, “ it is strange, as you say, that you should not know you are to have new lodgers.”

Mrs. Willis looked at her attentively, as she spoke these words, “ May I ask you, miss,” said she, “ the cause of your sudden removal ? ”

“ I know of none,” replied miss Courteney ; “ but that, my guardian thinks it will not be proper for me to stay among so many gentlemen as will shortly be your lodgers.”

“ I wish there had been a better reason than that,” said Mrs. Willis ; “ for I am very sure I am to have no lodgers recommended by the elder Mr. Bale, otherwise I should have known it.”

“ Has not his son told you so ? ” asked miss Courteney, in great confusion of thought.

“ He told me nothing,” replied Mrs. Willis, “ but that you are to leave me to-morrow.”

“ Lord bless me,” cried the young lady, in great emotion, “ what can this mean ! ”

“ Suffe

"Suffer me," said Mrs. Willis, looking on her with tenderness and concern, "to ask you a few questions : when you know my motives, I am sure you will not think that it is an impertinent curiosity which makes me take this liberty, but my anxiety for you."

"Dear madam," interrupted miss Courteney, "ask me what you please : you alarm me excessively."

"I would not alarm you," said Mrs. Willis ; "but I will own to you that I have fears, nay more that I have had doubts ; but I see I have been to blame with regard to the latter : has Mr. Bale shewn you his father's letters, miss ?"

"Shewn them to me !" repeated Henrietta, "no—but sure—dear Mrs. Willis explain yourself—I am ready to sink with the apprehensions you have raised in my mind."

"Compose yourself, my dear," said Mrs. Willis, drawing her chair nearer to her, and taking her hand tenderly. "I mean you well ; be assured I do : and now I will tell you all that has been upon my mind for several days past. Never did I imagine that I should entertain unfavourable suspicions of the son of my benefactor ; but indeed, my dear miss,

"I am

"I am afraid he has not acted ingenuously by
"you."

That moment a loud knocking at the door interrupted Mrs. Willis. She started from her chair. "Who can this be?" said she in some surprise; "I will go and see." She ran hastily out of the room; but returning again instantly, "Possibly," said she, "it may be Mr. Bale: "remember, miss, that it is my advice to you "not to leave my house, if he should desire you, "at least till you have heard what I have to "say."

She uttered these words with extreme earnestness and concern, and went immediately down stairs, leaving Henrietta in an agony of doubt, anxiety, and astonishment.

Her surprise kept her motionless in her chair, till she was roused by the voice of a woman upon the stairs that led to her apartment, whom she heard say, with great haughtiness of accent, "No, there "is no occasion for that ceremony; I shall go "in without introduction, I assure you."

She suddenly started from her chair, and was going towards the door, when she saw it flung open with some violence, and a lady of a very disagreeable figure but richly dressed, and in the utmost extremity of the fashion, appear at the entrance.

"Miss

Miss Courteney, recovering a little from her surprise, looked at the lady, in order to recollect whether she had ever seen her before ; but being wholly unacquainted with her features, and observing that she stood still and gazed at her without speaking, she concluded the visit could not be designed for her.

"I fancy, madam," said she, approaching her, "you are mistaken ; I am not the person you seek."

"No, *madam*," returned the lady with an emphasis, "I am not mistaken ;" then throwing herself haughtily into a chair, "I shall not ask your leave," said she, with a malignant smile, "to sit down in this apartment ; I may take that liberty with what belongs to Mr. Bale—Do you know me pray, *madam*."

"Not I, truly," replied miss Courteney, indignation at this insolent treatment having banished her former terror and surprise, and seating herself, with a careless air, just opposite to her, "Pray let me know what is your business with me," said she.

"Pert creature !" said the stranger, affecting contempt, while her lips quivered with rage, and her whole frame seemed convulsed with the violence of her emotions : "What ! you would have

“have me understand you to be a woman of
 “fortune, would you not?—Upon my word,”
 said she, looking round her, “this is a very
 “handsome apartment. Your dressing-room,
 “forsooth! You have your forms, no doubt,
 “and receive company in your dressing-room in
 “a morning. A very genteel dishabille, too;
 “and your face varnished over so nicely!—
 “Who would not conclude that white and red
 “to be natural?”

“You are come here to insult me, I find,”
 said Henrietta, her fine face glowing with in-
 dignation.—“I cannot imagine what cause I
 “have given you for this strange rudeness. I
 “never, as I can remember, ever saw you be-
 “fore; and insist upon your quitting my apart-
 “ment. You can have no business with me,
 “I am sure.”

“Indeed but I have, minx,” said the stranger,
 with the pale rage of a fury; “and my business
 “is to turn you out of this apartment: my for-
 “tune shall not be wasted in supporting such
 “wretches.”

“Your fortune!” cried miss Courteney, in
 astonishment: “What have I to do with you, or
 “your fortune?—Who are you?”

“This

This moment Mrs. Willis entered the room :
 “ Excuse me, ladies,” said she ; “ I heard high
 “ words between you.”

“ Ladies ! ” interrupted the stranger : “ how
 “ dare you, woman, join me with such a crea-
 “ ture ?—What business have you to intrude ? ”

“ Madam,” replied Mrs. Willis, “ I came to
 “ inform this young lady, my boarder, who you
 “ are : she does not know you.—Miss, this is
 “ young Mr. Bale’s lady.”

“ What ! ” cried Henrietta, in the utmost
 astonishment, “ is Mr. Bale married ? ”

“ Oh—you are surpris’d then,” said the lady,
 with a sneer : “ disappointed too, perhaps.—
 “ You had the confidence, I suppose, to think
 “ he would have married you one of these
 “ days !—Tell me, you wicked thing, did he
 “ ever give you such hopes ?—Oh I could tear
 “ his eyes out ! ” said she, rising, and walking
 about the room like one frantick, while the
 enormous length of her negligee swept the
 room, like the train of a tragedy-queen.—“ A
 “ wretch, to use me thus ! me, who has brought
 “ him such a fortune ! But I’ll be revenged : he
 “ shall never have a quiet moment. I’ll make
 “ him know what it is to slight a woman of
 “ virtue.”

All

All this time Henrietta continued silent, rooted in her chair, and with difficulty restrained the anguish of her heart from rising to her eyes, lest this outrageous woman of virtue should exult in her distress, yet she saw that she was betrayed; that Mr. Bale had acted weakly, if not basely: her reputation was ruined, yet she would not stoop so low as to enter into any justification of herself to a woman who had treated her so cruelly, upon a bare suspicion. The pride of affronted virtue came to her aid, against that torrent of overwhelming grief, which had for some moments absorbed all her faculties: she rose from her chair, and approaching Mrs. Bale,

“The error you are in,” said she, “would
 “have moved my compassion, had you treated
 “me with less insolence. I scorn to undeceive
 “you.—Go, learn from your husband who I
 “am; and blush, if you can, for the injurious
 “language you have given a person as much
 “your superior by birth, as in that virtue perhaps
 “of which you boast, and which has not with-
 “held you from such indecent transports of jea-
 “lousy, as it would become a virtuous woman to
 “suppress.”

The superiority with which she spoke, the dignity of her air and manner, struck her mean-souled adversary with such awe, that she continued

tinued silent for some moments, with her haggard looks fixed on her. Envy, at the view of so lovely a form, added new stings to her rage and jealousy. At length, she poured forth a torrent of reproaches, with such eagerness of malice, that her words were scarce intelligible.

“ I am not used to scolding,” said miss Courteney, calmly, retiring towards her bed-chamber, “ and you, Mrs. Bale, seem to be an “ excellent scold.”

The lady, provoked at this appellation, employed the coarsest language imaginable to express her resentment of the injury ; but miss Courteney took shelter in her bedchamber, the door of which she double-locked.

“ Insolent trollop,” said Mrs. Bale, raising her voice that she might hear her, “ call me “ scold ! I scorn your words, you saucy, impudent, audacious hussy : I never could scold in “ my life—no, you dirty puss :—I am a woman “ of breeding ; I am none of your beggarly “ quality : I had forty thousand pounds to my “ portion, you proud paultry minx.—Scold ! “ call me a scold—”

“ Pray, madam, compose yourself,” said Mrs. Willis, “ and do me the favour to walk “ down into my parlour.—Here is some mis- “ take

“take. I am pretty certain you have injured this young lady by your suspicions.”

“Young lady!” interrupted Mrs. Bale, “What makes her a lady?—A fine world it is, now-adays, when beggars are called ladies. I would fain know what fortune she has to put her upon a footing with ladies.”

“I know nothing of her fortune, madam,” said Mrs. Willis.

“Fortune! poor wretch!” said Mrs. Bale: “a few paultry hundreds.—Such ladies! Suppose her grandfather was an earl, has she a fortune? answer me that.”

“I don’t know, really,” replied Mrs. Willis. “Well then,” said Mrs. Bale, “why do you give her a title she has no right to? But why do I talk to you, vile wretch? you are my husband’s confident.”

This thought renewed all her rage, and she loaded Mrs. Willis with such shocking invectives, that the poor woman could not refrain from tears.

“Your husband’s father, madam,” said she, “has been a generous benefactor to me: I consider that, and will be patient under your abuse.”

The word *abuse* was such a charge upon the lady’s want of breeding, that she called Mr.

Willis a hundred saucy jades, for daring to say that she was capable of abusing any body; and having almost exhausted her spirits with the violence of her passions, and finding that Mrs. Willis sat silent, and took no further notice of what she said, she flounced out of the room, declaring, that her father-in-law should know that she acted as procuress for his son, and that she should return to her rags and poverty again.

Mrs. Willis thought her behaviour dispensed with her from treating her with that respect, which she would have otherwise paid to Mr. Bale's daughter-in-law, and therefore did not offer to wait on her down stairs, but rung the bell for somebody to attend her, and, locking the door after her, she tapped gently at miss Courteney's chamber-door, telling her, that Mrs. Bale was gone.

Who is this fury?" said the young lady, as she came out. "You have been treated very ill by her, Mrs. Willis, I am sorry for it." "And I am sorry for what you have suffered, my dear miss," replied Mrs. Willis; "but Mr. Bale is to blame for it all. I am now sure you are entirely innocent."

"Innocent!" repeated miss Courteney, with a sigh — "How low am I fallen, when that
Vol. I. M "could

“could ever be doubted ! But Mrs. Willis, you
 “knew, it seems, that Mr. Bale was married,
 “I am surprised you never mentioned his wife
 “to me.”

“And are you not surprised, miss,” said Mrs. Willis, “that Mr. Bale never mentioned her
 “to you ?”

“To be sure that was very strange,” replied Henrietta, “what could he mean by it ?”

“Ah ! miss,” said Mrs. Willis, “a very
 “little reflection on Mr. Bale’s behaviour might
 “have informed you that he was in love with
 “you.”

“In love with me !” cried Henrietta, blushing with shame and resentment.

“Yes,” said Mrs. Willis, “in love with
 “you ; if that can be called love, which seeks
 “the ruin of its object. I saw it in his looks,
 “his words, cautious as they were, his whole
 “behaviour shewed it but too plainly.”

“And this man married too !” cried Henrietta, lifting up her eyes. “To what have I,
 “by one rash step, reduced myself ! But still,
 “Mrs. Willis, my first difficulty recurs, why
 “did you avoid speaking of his wife to me ?”

“Hear me, my dear, with patience,” interrupted Mrs. Willis, “I shall be very free ; but
 “my plainness ought not to offend you, since
 “it

“ it is a mark of my sincerity.” Mrs. Willis paused here a moment, and then proceeded, as will be found in the following chapter.

C H A P. XV.

In which those circumstances are partly explained.

“ **Y**OU may remember I told you, soon after you came here, that before I went to Leghorn, I heard Mr. Bale was courting the daughter of a rich citizen ; I had been returned but three or four days, when he came to me to know if I could accommodate a young lady, a ward of his father’s, with lodging and board ; to which I readily consented.

“ It is no flattery, miss, to tell you, that when I saw you, I was charmed with your person and behaviour : your beauty, and Mr. Bale’s extreme assiduity, made it seem highly probable that he loved you. I set myself to examine his behaviour, and the observations I made on it confirmed my suspicions. I had then heard nothing of his being married, having upon my return been so taken up with

“ my domestick affairs, that I had no leisure to
 “ make or receive visits, from which I could re-
 “ ceive any information concerning what had
 “ happened in my absence.

“ I was a little surpris'd to find that you had
 “ been introduced to me under a feigned name,
 “ and that you were not called Benson, but
 “ Courteney. However, I made no reflections
 “ upon that circumstance, till, about two days
 “ afterwards, I accidentally heard that Mr. Bale
 “ had been married two months; then it was,
 “ that in my astonishment at his so cautiously
 “ avoiding any mention of his wife, I was led
 “ to reflect upon what you yourself had inform'd
 “ me of your situation, your flight from your
 “ friends; Mr. Bale's apparent tenderness for
 “ you awakened suspicions: I own it disadvan-
 “ tageous to you.

“ I waited impatiently for the hour of Mr.
 “ Bale's visiting you, and the moment I saw him
 “ wish'd him joy on his marriage, expressing
 “ my surprise that I should not have heard of
 “ that event from himself. He colour'd, and
 “ seem'd in great confusion; and, after a little
 “ pause, Have you said any thing of it to miss
 “ Courteney? said he.

" I replied that I had heard the news but an
" hour before, and had not seen you since.

" You will oblige me (said he) if you will
" not mention it to her—I stared—My wife
" (continued he) is the most unreasonable wo-
" man in the world; she has taken it into her
" head to be horribly jealous of me, though
" we have been married so short a time—It
" was a match (and he sighed) of my father's
" making—but I assure you I am very un-
" happy.

" I am sorry for it, sir (interrupted I) but
" what reasons have you for concealing from
" miss Courteney that you are married?

" It is a sad thing, Mrs. Willis (said he) when
" a man is not master in his own family. I
" hope that is not your case, sir, answered I.
" Indeed but it is, he replied. Miss Courte-
" ney, you know, is agreeable. Oh! very
" agreeable, said I. My wife is of such an un-
" accountable humour (resumed he) that I durst
" not offer miss Courteney, though my father
" is her guardian, an asylum in my house, till
" her relations were reconciled to her, lest I
" should be teased with jealousy and suspi-
" cions.

“ I am persuaded, sir (said I) that miss Cour-
 “ teney has too much good sense to take it amiss
 “ that you did not invite her to your house as
 “ things were circumstanced. She has more
 “ reason to be displeased at your concealing your
 “ marriage from her, which every body knows,
 “ and which she would soon know if she lived
 “ less retired.

“ Let me intreat you, Mrs. Willis (said he)
 “ not to mention it to miss Courteney. I would
 “ not upon any account that she should know I
 “ am married, yet could not offer her an apart-
 “ ment in my house.

“ Indeed, sir (said I, smiling) you make this
 “ matter of more consequence than you need to
 “ do ; miss Courteney will not consider it as any
 “ slight to her.

“ She must either think herself slighted (re-
 “ sumed he, with quickness) by my not inviting
 “ her, or she will divine the reason, which would
 “ be worse ; for in that case, her delicacy is so
 “ extreme, that she would never allow me to
 “ see her.

“ Ah, thought I, is it so ! He perceived he
 “ had almost betrayed himself ; and changed the
 “ discourse, asking me many questions about my
 “ husband, whose diligence and fidelity he highly
 “ extolled, dropping hints of designs in his fa-

“ YOUR ;

“vour; and indeed it is in his power to be of
“great service to him.

“But I had no satisfaction,” pursued Mrs.
Willis, “in what he said; for, to my appre-
“hension, it appeared as if he sought to bribe
“me into a concurrence with his designs, what-
“ever they were. Therefore I sat silent, and
“I believe discovered by my looks, that I did
“not like his proceedings; for he rose up, and,
“with an air of some resentment, said,

“That his father would be in town in a few
“days, and would then dispose of you properly;
“and that in the mean time he must insist upon
“my being silent with regard to his marriage,
“since it would throw him into great confusion
“if you knew it; and added, that he thought he
“might reasonably expect this instance of my
“complaisance.

“I told him that I was very glad to hear his
“father would be in town so soon, and would
“take the young lady under his own care: that
“since he desired it, I would not be the first to
“acquaint you with his marriage; I owned his
“reasons appeared to me very whimsical: but
“that it was not my business to be impertinently
“curious; and that I should concern myself no
“farther about it.

“ He seemed pleased with this indifference,
 “ and went up stairs to see you. I had already
 “ taken my resolution, my dear miss Courteney,
 “ which was to write to his father, and ac-
 “ quaint him with the whole transaction. I
 “ was willing to leave the young gentleman in
 “ a false security, that he might not suspect
 “ my design, and take measures to render it
 “ useless ; and not being sure how far even you
 “ might be trusted, for my suspicions of you,
 “ though weakened, were not yet removed, I
 “ thought it best to say nothing that could alarm
 “ you, till I had received the old gentleman’s
 “ advice how to act ; but my measures were
 “ broke by Mr. Bale’s resolving to take you from
 “ my house.

“ He came into the parlour to me to-day, be-
 “ fore you saw him, and told me, that he had
 “ directions from his father to send you into
 “ the country, because he did not expect to
 “ return for some time yet, and he did not
 “ approve of your residing in London till he
 “ came.

“ You may easily imagine, miss, that I was
 “ not satisfied with the cause he assigned for this
 “ sudden resolution. I was now alarmed for you ;
 “ and judged it necessary to acquaint you imme-
 “ diately with Mr. Bale’s being married, that
 “ you

“ you might not fall ignorantly into his snares.
 “ I began with asking you questions, to which
 “ the openness and simplicity of your answers
 “ convinced me that you were imposed upon
 “ greatly by Mr. Bale. I was going to explain
 “ myself clearly, when Mrs. Bale’s arrival in-
 “ terrupted me. You know with what earnest-
 “ ness I intreated you not to leave my house;
 “ I was apprehensive that he was come to hurry
 “ you away, and I trembled for the danger to
 “ which you were exposed.

“ When I left you, I met Mrs. Bale upon
 “ the stairs; and, not knowing her, I asked,
 “ who it was she desired to see? The young
 “ woman that lodges with you, said she, in a
 “ tone of voice that surprised me. I told her,
 “ I would go and acquaint you that there was a
 “ lady wanted to speak to you: but she rushed
 “ by me, saying, there is no need of that ce-
 “ remony, I shall introduce myself.

“ Her behaviour recalling to my mind what
 “ Mr. Bale had said of his wife’s jealousy, I
 “ suspected this was the lady; and, to be as-
 “ sured, I enquired of a servant, who attended
 “ her, who she was. The moment I knew it
 “ was really her, I flew up stairs, being full of
 “ concern for you; for I saw a storm in her

“ coun-

“countenance, and dreaded the consequence—
 “The poor young man is indeed plagued with
 “a jealous wife; and in that particular he told
 “the truth. But, my dear miss, I see plainly
 “that the mystery he has made of his connexi-
 “ons with you has roused her suspicions.”

“It is all an incomprehensible mystery to
 “me,” said Henrietta, sighing: “Mr. Bale
 “has certainly deceived me, for what purposes
 “I know not; but I know that I will never see
 “him again, but in the presence of his father,
 “to have this dark affair cleared up.

“But, my dear Mrs. Willis, how shall I ex-
 “press what my heart feels for you, who have
 “shewn so tender a regard for my honour and
 “quiet—How miserable might I have been,
 “had you been less good—I am sure I may rely
 “upon your prudence—Advise me then what
 “to do: you know my story; you see my
 “present situation—I have no friend, no pro-
 “tector.”

“My dear miss,” interrupted Mrs. Willis,
 “there is but one thing for you to do, and that
 “is, to return to your aunt.”

“How can I appear before her?” said Hen-
 rietta, “after having so greatly disobliged her
 “by

“by my flight; a flight which has had such disgraceful consequences. Besides, do not the same motives that obliged me to leave her, still subsist? and are they not equally strong against my returning?”

“I would not pain you, my dear miss,” said Mrs. Willis, “with the recollection of a past error, were it not to make it useful to you in your present circumstances— Warned as you were of your aunt’s designs, it was impossible to carry them into execution without your concurrence: your flight therefore was not necessary, and, if not necessary, surely it was highly imprudent; and, in my opinion, can only be repaired by a voluntary return.— Need I tell a young lady of your delicacy, that imputations, however unjust, sully, if they do not stain a character. Do you think this woman’s frantic jealousy will be silent? how can you otherwise prove the falshood of her assertions, than by returning to your aunt, and making yourself accountable to her for all your actions? Nothing can be more unfortunate for youth and beauty, than to be left to its own guidance and discretion. The world seldom attributes too much prudence to youth: however regular our conduct may be in that

“gay

“ gay time of life, it is supposed to be owing to
 “ the care and attention of our parents or rela-
 “ tions, rather than to our own circumspection.
 “ Can a young woman, who voluntarily sets
 “ herself free from that restraint, hope to escape
 “ unfavourable censures, when those who owe
 “ it to chance only that they are not subjected
 “ to any control, suffer perhaps in the opinion
 “ of the world, because they are possessed of a
 “ liberty which they may make an improper
 “ use of?

“ You see, my dear, to what inconveniencies
 “ you have been exposed: these are the neces-
 “ sary consequences of your unprotected state;
 “ there is no doubt but you would repel every
 “ attempt to the prejudice of your honour: but
 “ does not modesty, if not virtue, suffer by such
 “ attempts? and can you acquit yourself of im-
 “ prudence, when you reflect that you have
 “ thrown yourself into a situation which renders
 “ you liable to them?”

“ It was indeed,” said Henrietta, who, by
 her blushes and confusion, acknowledged the
 strength of her reasons, “ imprudence to throw
 “ myself into this situation, but it would be guilt
 “ to continue in it. Oh! that I had had such
 “ a friend as you to advise with at Windsor, I
 “ should

“ should never have taken a step, which I blush
 “ to think of now. I will return to my aunt;
 “ Mrs. Willis, I will throw myself upon her
 “ mercy; and if I must be made a sacrifice
 “ of ——”

“ Indeed, my dear (interrupted Mrs. Willis)
 “ these fears are groundless: you cannot possibly
 “ be married against your consent; and you
 “ have it always in your power to refuse. As
 “ for the convent, you cannot be cheated
 “ into it, that is certain, since you know she
 “ had such a design, and may guard against
 “ it.”

“ But suppose (said miss Courteney) that she
 “ should not receive me again; Mr. Bale found
 “ her inexorable.”

“ Ah! my dear,” replied Mrs. Willis, shaking
 her head, “ Mr. Bale was not a fit person to be
 “ trusted with such a negociation: but, how-
 “ ever that may be, I am sure, when your aunt
 “ knows in what manner he has acted, and the
 “ reasons you have to distrust him, she will
 “ think it necessary to take you out of his hands.
 “ Your return to her will remove her suspicions
 “ against you, and convince her that it was
 “ from a sudden impulse of fear only, that
 “ you left her; and that you had no desire of
 “ dis-

“ disposing of yourself contrary to her inclinations.”

“ But I have one favour to beg of you (said miss Courteney) and that is, that you will go along with me to my aunt ; resentment may shut her ears to all that I can say to her, but I think she cannot resist your pleas, urged with that good sense you possess in so high a degree.”

“ Doubt not, my dear (said Mrs. Willis) but I am ready to do you any service in my power.”

“ What hinders us then from going directly ?” cried Henrietta, eagerly ; “ we can get a post-chaise, and ——”

“ The day is too far advanced (replied Mrs. Willis) we will, if you please, set out early to-morrow morning, I will take care to have a post-chaise in readiness ; in the mean time you may depend upon being secure from any disagreeable visits here, neither Mr. Bale nor his fury of a wife shall see you, unless you desire they should.”

“ Notwithstanding the treatment she gave me (said miss Courteney) I would rather see her than him ; but you may well imagine, Mrs. Willis, that I do not wish to see either of them.”

“ Make

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“ Make yourself easy, my dear (said Mrs. Willis) you shall meet with no insult of any kind in my house.”

Henrietta embraced her with tears of gratitude, which the good woman returned with a parental tenderness, and then left her to give the necessary directions for their little journey the next day.

END of VOL. I.



MS. A. T. 3. 1. 1



